

Realities of the New Creation in Christ

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Subtitle: The manifested sons of God

Romans 8:18–25 (NirV) *What we are suffering now is nothing compared with the glory that will be shown in us. **19 Everything God created looks forward to the time when his children will appear in their full and final glory. 20** The created world was bound to fail. But that was not the result of its own choice. It was planned that way by the One who made it. God planned **21** to set the created world free. He didn't want it to rot away completely. Instead, he wanted it to have the same glorious freedom that his children have. **22 We know that all that God created has been groaning.** It is in pain as if it were giving birth to a child. The created world continues to groan even now. **23** And that's not all. We have the Holy Spirit as the promise of future blessing. **But we also groan inside ourselves as we look forward to the time when God will adopt us as full members of his family.** Then he will give us everything he has for us. He will raise our bodies and give glory to them. **24** That's the hope we had when we were saved. But hope that can be seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? **25 We hope for what we don't have yet.** So we are patient as we wait for it.*

Three statements:

- We don't yet see everything that we are soon going to see
- We don't yet have everything that we are soon going to have
- We don't yet do everything that we are soon going to do

Romans ch. 8 speaks about the present suffering of believers, and the future glory that God will reveal in us and through us.

Romans 8:19 (NirV) *Everything God created looks forward to the time when his children will appear in their full and final glory.*

Romans 8:18–25 (GW) *All creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal who his children are.*

This is speaking about a future point in time when God will manifest, or fully reveal His mature sons in their (our) full glory

>> immature children – Gr. nepios, >> children – tekna, >> Mature sons – huiois

We read God's Word and listen to anointed preaching, not just to find out:

- God's plan & purpose for our lives, or:
- Where we come from or where we are going
- **But to find out who we really are as sons of God**

Romans 8:22 ... *The created world continues to groan even now. 23 And that's not all. We have the Holy Spirit as the promise of future blessing. **But we also groan inside ourselves as we look forward to the time when God will adopt us as full members of his family. Then he will give us everything he has for us. He will raise our bodies and give glory to them.***

- As believers, we are already free today, but there is a future (glorious) freedom coming when we receive our resurrected body
- Born again believers are already members of God's family today, but there is a future completion of that membership in God's family when we receive our resurrected body
- **Our (adoption) redemption is not fully completed until we receive our resurrection body**
- God's Holy Spirit in our lives is the surety / promise / down-payment (earnest) of God's future blessing
- God's created world is groaning even now
- We (as born again believers) who have the Holy Spirit within us also groan inside ourselves
- **All of God's creation groans and awaits the manifestation (revealing) of the mature sons of God**

This final revealing of God's sons will take place:

- after the rapture of the church (1 Thess. 4:17)
- after the saints of God will receive their resurrected body in heaven
- when Christ returns with His saints to set up His 1,000 Year Reign (Revelation 2:26, 2 Timothy 2:12, Zech. 14:5, Rev. 20:6)

Until then, God has forerunners of these manifested sons.

They are born again, spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ who have forsaken the things of this world, and who are living their lives fully dedicated to the cause of Christ.

Who is a mature son of God?

1. A mature son of God is one who knows who he is in Christ
2. A mature son of God knows & walks in the authority that God has given him in Christ
3. A mature son of God carries one who responsibilities well and is dependable

Ephesians 4:14 (NLT) *Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.*

Hebrews 12:26–28 (NLT) *When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also." 27 This means that all of creation will be shaken and removed, so that only unshakable things will remain. 28 Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.*

The world is waiting for the manifested sons of God.