

## Who Do You Think You Are?

### Commentary for December 14, 2020 — You Are More Important Than You Imagine

“Who do you think you are?” Perhaps those words have been said to you in your life by relatives, friends, or even enemies. I hope you know who you are.

### **You Are A New Creation**

Several of you are now, and all people will become, “**a new creation**”:

**“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [in Greek, “new creation”]<sup>1</sup>: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And**

**all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation;**

**To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and has committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”**

• **2 Corinthians 5:17–19**

**“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature [in Greek, “new creation”].”**

• **Galatians 6:15**

You become a new creation when you have God’s Spirit within you.

### **The New Creation and the Mystery**

The implications of the “new creation” are given in the teaching of the Mystery. Referred to briefly in a postscript added by Paul in Romans 16:25–26, those verses tell readers (or an audience listening to Romans being read) that something called “the Mystery” exists. The Mystery is openly and powerfully taught by the apostle Paul in Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First Timothy, Second Timothy, and Titus.

The Apostle John had accepted and understood the Mystery by the time he wrote his Gospel and three epistles, First, Second, and Third John. His Gospel contains several indications of Mystery teaching which were not known by the apostles until the Mystery was given to Paul in 63 AD. The apostles alive at that time, particularly Peter and John, initially rejected the Mystery teachings but finally came to accept the truths Paul was given. Information on this is in Dr. Ernest Martin’s book, [\*Restoring the Original Bible: The Design and Development of the Holy Scriptures\*](#) in the latter chapters.

---

<sup>1</sup> Most modern translations have “**new creation**” rather than “new creature.” Both are correct, but the significance of a new creation goes far beyond a different kind of “creature” like others God has created. All creation since Genesis was made to fulfill YHWH’s purpose for his ultimate creation, mankind. This “**new creation**” completes God’s initial creation of man. As God created Adam, and from him came all of us, so too God will newly create all of mankind through Christ.

So, yes, John's Gospel is, a "Mystery" book, written with a full understanding of God's message to Paul. John sets the stage for readers and listeners of his Gospel when the first use of the word **"law"** in the Gospel of John is stated to be inferior to grace and truth: **"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ"** (John 1:17).

Read the opening words of 1 John chapter 3, and then John 3:16–17:

**"Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, NOW are we the sons of God**

**... And you know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."**

• **1 John 3:1–2, 5**

In addition to being part of a **"new creation,"** John writes that believers **"NOW are we the sons of God."**<sup>2</sup> Jesus did not come to take away only your sins and my sins. He came to take away the sins of the world, as you already know from a well-known passage in John's Gospel:

**"For God so loved**

[1] **the world,**

**that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting [eonian] life.**

**For God sent NOT his Son into [2] the world to condemn [3] the world;**

**but [God sent his Son] that [4] the world through him might be saved."**

• **John 3:16–17**

In John 3:17 the context of **"the world"** does not mean all creation, the universe, or the system of things, it means people — to be among the world of people. In context, John 3:16–17 shows that only people can be [1] loved, [3] not condemned, but will be [4] saved.

You, me, and every human being will be saved, we will also become **"children [or sons] of God."** We shall be like Christ and see Him as He is (1 John 3:1–2). You were the reason Christ died, was resurrected, and glorified. You will be part of the body of Christ: **"Now you are the body of Christ, and members in particular"** (1 Corinthians 12:27). We will still be human as Christ is at this moment (Romans 5:15; 1 Timothy 2:5). God is our Father, and we shall see Him in His glory (Matthew 5:8). We will be part of God (1 Corinthians chapter 15, particularly verse 28). We cannot even imagine our future at this time (1 Corinthians 2:9).

You might want to read related information on this topic: Dr. Martin's short book, [ABCs of the Gospel](#) (online only), ["The History of the Revelation of the Mystery,"](#) my article ["Are YOU a Misfit?"](#) and Dr. Martin's book, [The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine](#).

David Sielaff  
[david@askelm.com](mailto:david@askelm.com)

---

<sup>2</sup> The term "sons" is a generic term indicating children in general. Being designated as a **"child of God"** goes far beyond being "children of Adam." The same Greek term "sons" is translated in the King James Version as **"children of God"** in Matthew 5:9; Luke 20:36; John 11:52; Romans 8:16, 21, 9:8; Galatians 3:26; 1 John 3:10, 5:2.