

**Lent to Easter 2015**

# Upside uMOI & Inside



**Lent 5 — The God Who Creates New Hearts**

# Focus of Lent to Easter 2015

What does **renewal** look like for those already committed to Christ and his church (CMF)? Committed believers may not so much need a “reset” as **an invitation not to settle**.

God often turns our **expectations** “Upside Down & Inside Out” and calls us to **rethink** what we thought we knew, what we thought we were done with, and to discover more.

It was the “religious” who thought they had arrived and could learn nothing new about God and his plans for them.

So, what God needs from the faithful is **a willingness to be teachable** and to give ourselves to the way of **deep change**.

# Upside Down & Inside Out

Lent 1 – The God Who Initiates Deep Change

Lent 2 – The God Who Does the Spectacular

Lent 3 – The God Who Hides His Wisdom In A Cross

Lent 4 – The God Who Isn't Scared of the Dark

**Lent 5 – The God Who Creates New Hearts**

Palm Sunday – The God Who Is Still Present  
When the Party is Over

Easter Sunday – The God Who Raises the Dead

## **Jeremiah 31:31-32 NIV**

<sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the LORD.

## Jeremiah 31:33-34 NIV

<sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,”  
declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”

# The Biblical Use of “Heart”

The *heart* is often used of such things as personality and the intellect, memory, emotions, desires, and will. It can describe our innermost parts (spirit/soul).

We associate thought and memory with the brain today, but in the idiom of the Bible, thinking and feeling is a function of the *heart* (*Lev/kardia*).

What psychology calls the *ego* or *psyche* today, the Bible calls “the heart” of a person, the core of our being.

Jesus said, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matt 22:37)

## Psalm of David, ch. 51:1-4 NLT

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.

You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just.



## **Psalm 51:5-9 NLT**

- <sup>5</sup> For I was born a sinner—  
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.
- <sup>6</sup> But you desire honesty from the womb,  
teaching me wisdom even there.
- <sup>7</sup> Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- <sup>8</sup> Oh, give me back my joy again;  
you have broken me—  
now let me rejoice.
- <sup>9</sup> Don't keep looking at my sins.  
Remove the stain of my guilt.



## **Psalm 51:10-12 NLT**

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God.


Renew a loyal spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup> Do not banish me from your presence,  
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and make me willing to obey you.


**Matthew 13:15**, Jesus quoting Isaiah

“For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.  
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.”



“Basically, a snake will shed its skin to allow for continued growth. The skin of a snake is different from the skin of a mammal (including us) in that it does not grow as the animal grows. When we get bigger with age, our skin grows right along with us. But snake skin has a limited capacity for growth and enlargement. Thus, when a snake outgrows the skin it's in, it simply sheds the outer layer and starts fresh.”

[www.reptileknowledge.com](http://www.reptileknowledge.com)

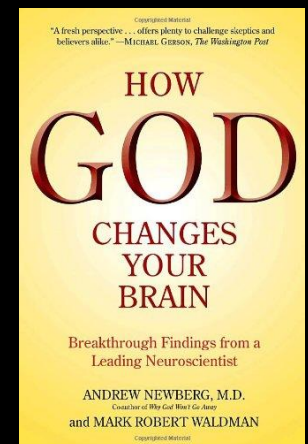


Every one of us completely regenerates our own skin every seven days. A cut heals itself and disappears in a week or two. Every single cell in our skeleton is replaced every seven years. According to researchers, the body replaces itself with a largely new set of cells every seven to ten years, and some of our most important parts are revamped even more rapidly.

<http://stemcell.stanford.edu/research/>

“In the last two years, advances in neuroscience have revolutionized the way we think about the brain. Rather than seeing it as an organ that slowly matures during the first two decades of life, then withers away as we age, scientists now look at the human brain as a constantly changing mass of activity... the underlying mechanism that allows these changes to occur relates to a unique quality known as **neuroplasticity**: the ability of the human brain to structurally rearrange itself in response to a wide variety of positive and negative events.”

Andrew Newberg & Mark Robert Waldman  
*How God Changes Your Brain* (2009)



## Jesus, Gospel of John 12:23-26 NLT

<sup>23</sup> “Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. <sup>24</sup> I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.

<sup>25</sup> Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. <sup>26</sup> Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.”

## Jesus, Luke 9:23-24 NIV

<sup>23</sup> Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. <sup>24</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.



# The Company of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit: *Creating New Hearts For Over 2,000 Years*

- Apostle Paul (former religious fundamentalist/terrorist)
- Lydia of Philippi (retail worker turned church planter)
- Augustine of Hippo (ex fornicator & rabble rouser to theologian)
- Francis of Assisi (rich playboy becomes leading beggar monk)
- John Newton (slave ship master turned renowned abolitionist)
- Menno Simons (religious priest & pawn to Anabaptist leader)
- C.S. Lewis (atheist novelist to greatest 20<sup>th</sup> cent. apologist)
- Francis Collins (atheist scientist to founder of BioLogos)
- Annie Lobert (former Vegas call girl now fighting sex trade)
- **You?** (sinner made saint and... )

## **Paul, Colossians 3:1-3, 5, 9-10 NIV**

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature... <sup>9</sup> ...since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

## **Paul, 2 Corinthians 5:16-17 NLT**

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

# Living Into Your New Identity, Receiving a New Heart

1. Who is God? (your portrait of God)
2. Who are you? (your identity)
3. Who do you believe? (placement of faith/trust)

“being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

**Paul, Philippians 1:6 NIV**



# Upside uMOI & Inside



Sermon audio & slides can be downloaded at:  
[www.christiansburgmennonite.org](http://www.christiansburgmennonite.org)

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