


## New life


Doctor Christiaan Barnard was the first **surgeon** who completed a heart transplant in December 1967 in Capetown, South Africa. I can remember hearing the journalist say that the first person in the world had received a heart transplant. This person had a bad heart which made them very sick. He would soon die if he were not to get another heart. During the news it was said that another heart had been transplanted into this person and that he was now doing well.

### A) New identity


#### What happens when we are in Christ?

 2 Cor 5:17


#### What have we become in God's eyes?

 2 Cor 5:21


Do you remember in the previous lesson we talked about the diesel in the petrol-run car? As soon as we believe that Jesus has made us righteous, it changes our identity. You could think of it as though the petrol car gets a diesel engine. The engine now needs a different type of fuel, namely diesel. We start to live off another fuel, namely grace. Our sinful nature is replaced with the nature of Christ which has entered us. His righteousness means we are acceptable to God. He never again looks at us through the eyes of the law, but he looks at Jesus who lives in us. It is just like with the person who received a new heart. Our old heart is handed in and Jesus gives us a new heart. There are comparisons with the transplant which Dr Barnard carried out. The doctor needed a healthy heart from someone who was no longer alive. Through this he could give the sick person new life. We come back to life spiritually through Jesus Christ's death in our place.

 Rom 8:9-11

#### What is the first thing we do as a new creation?

 Eph 4:23,24

#### What needs to be continually renewed?

 Col 3:10,16a

#### What do we do to be continually renewed?

Just as a baby learns many things from their parents, so we learn to walk in our new nature by being one with Jesus. He now lives in you and He really wants you to get to know Him. Start listening to the words He speaks to you. **Learn** to hear words from the Bible which tell about Jesus. Our attention is no longer drawn to the things we do not do well, our bad habits and our failures. Our attention is now on Jesus in us. He is good, He is our wisdom, He is our provision. As we get to know Him so we will begin to be like Him.

This means that we will start to think very differently. With Jesus in us, we enter His kingdom and we start to live in his righteousness (according to the will of the Father). Very different values apply in the kingdom than in the world. Jesus does not force us to do that. It is a free choice! Our feelings and desires are consequently filled with His feelings and desires.

### Thinking differently


When I reached my teenage years I found it very difficult to love myself. I thought very negatively about myself. I did not want to live anymore. When I allowed Jesus in to my heart my thoughts changed. I started to believe very quickly that God loved me. Because Jesus is the love of the Father, He started to change my thoughts about myself. Then I started to think differently about myself.

### Butterfly


Think about a caterpillar, a cocoon and a butterfly. The caterpillar eats nearly all day long, mainly leaves. After a while the caterpillar changes into a cocoon, from where eventually the wonderful butterfly comes. The caterpillar is no longer who he was. Everything is different. The butterfly can fly, but also its eating habits are different. The butterfly can only suck up liquid. Imagine that the caterpillar, now a butterfly, only thinks of food and crawling over leaves. The insect would die very quickly. Everything is different now that the butterfly can fly. The insect functions in a completely new way.

It is just the same with us inside when Jesus comes to live in us. We become completely different and take in different spiritual food. We no longer live under law, we now live in relationship with Jesus. His words and thoughts are now our spiritual food.

## EXERCISE:

 You have now learned a lot about what we have received in Jesus. Take some time to thank Jesus for what He has done for you.

You have learned about the new identity which the Father wants to give you. This can be an important moment for you: Do you want to make the choice and believe what Jesus has done for you? You are made righteous with Him if you believe in Jesus. That means that God sees you as innocent, without fault and guilt. Think about what this means for the rest of your life.

 Discuss with your mentor what you have discovered about the words: made righteous. Now is the time to leave the old behind and to embrace your new identity. Pray together **for this** important step.

Handwriting practice area with horizontal dotted lines.