

The Ethical and Moral Foundation of the New Testament

Jesus came to free the spirit of people from the chains of the flesh that had bound them since the fall of man

Rom 5:14

14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

1 Cor 15:21-22

21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

Matt 5:48

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Paul describes this powerful transformation in Christ

Eph 2:1-5:

2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. . . . 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

The Beatitudes

Matt 5:1-10:

1 Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

A repeated and key word in this text is *blessed*. According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, this word indicates the nature of that which is the highest good.

Eph 1:3

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

The beatitudes describe those who receive this highest nature of goodness—used twice of God. A **highest nature, goodness**, comes from a **disposition of heart** and results in a **divine reward**:

Blessed	the poor in spirit	those w/o spiritual needs	the kingdom of heaven
Blessed	they who mourn	those without sadness	comforted
Blessed	the meek	the haughty	Inherit the earth
Blessed	hunger and thirst for righteousness	ignorant	be filled
Blessed	the merciful	intolerance	shown mercy
Blessed	the pure in heart	hard hearted	see God
Blessed	the peacemakers	envy and strife	called sons of God
Blessed	persecuted because of righteousness	kingdom of heaven	

Inward Power Controls Outward Acts

Matt 5:11-12

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

2 Tim 3:12-13

12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

1 Peter 2:21-23

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

22 "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

The Power of Christian Influence

Matt 5:13-16

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Blessedness is our goal

2 Cor 5:17-18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

Gal 3:27

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Rev 1:3

3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Rev 14:13

13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."

"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

Rev 16:15

15 "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

Rev 19:9

9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Rev 20:6

6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them,

Rev 22:7

7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Rev 22:14-15

14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Rev 19:6-8

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

8 Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

Matt 5:48

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.