

SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

EPHESIANS 3:17-19

So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

1 JOHN 4:9

We love, because He first loved us.

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION

DESCRIPTION

Being a new creation in Christ births a love and affection for Christ.

VERSES

The two verses of this song interact with the reality of being a new creature and the results (love & affection) of that new state of being. The first verse alludes to when God says, “moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezek. 36:26). This imagery is demonstrating how we as people have no desire (having a heart of stone) to follow or desire the things of God. Thus, God must give entirely new hearts/spirits to His people, in effect giving them new life. This is what God does in sending Jesus through whose person and work we are offered this new life. The second verse further explores this reality not only saying that we are given new life, but we are accepted in Christ, because as Paul writes, “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will” (Eph. 1:5).

CHORUS

The chorus just seeks to meditate on those truths, namely in what a great expression of love they are. Having this new life, we then respond with love to Him because He first showed us love though we were utterly underserving of it (Rom. 5:10; 1 Jn. 4:9).

BRIDGE

The bridge is a tether from the emotional meditation to the physical response. We move in our worship from pronouncing our love for Jesus, to committing ourselves and our affections and devotion to Him. The authors of the song saw these words of Paul as encapsulating this kind of deep affection and devotion,

“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith” (Phil. 3:8-9).