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**M**inisters **U**ncompromisingly **S**ubmitted to **C**hrist in **L**ove and **E**ndless **S**ervice

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**Teaching from the desk of Kenneth Etta**

**Submitting to the identity of Christ in the new creation**

Who we are in Him. Part 2 of a two part series

2 Corinthians 5:21. **For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

When you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 10: 9-10) by a miraculous act of the Holy Spirit you were made a new creation (1 Corinthians 5:17) **The foundation of the identity of the new creation you became is the righteousness of God.** Without the identity of the righteousness of God birth in your life, into your spirit (your new nature) nothing of the inheritance of God in Christ could have been transferred to your account. At the garden of Gethsemane Jesus submitted to the will of his Father as the sin bearer to drink the cup of the wrath of God for the sins of mankind. A great exchange was affected when Jesus became sin and was subjected to experience the curse of the law (poverty, sickness and death) so that we don't have to be subject to the power of these anymore. Alleluia. **Your legal position of being and been as a redeemed, blood bought, covenant sealed child of the Father God in Christ is righteousness.**

God has made and declared you righteous. He did it. It has nothing to do with your intellect, might or feelings. When **God sees you (the new creation-the new man) in Christ** He sees you as one who is righteous, as though you never sinned, in right standing and totally at peace with Him. This dearly beloved is the heritage and inheritance of the believer in Christ Jesus. The highest judge of the highest court of the heavens has made and declared you righteous by virtue of the exchange of the cross, which you embraced in Christ. It is about time we start taking God at His word and stop relegating the truth of this great salvation The Father has wrought in us to our pitiful and carnal base of feelings. **What has feelings got to do with righteousness? Absolutely nothing.**

**The righteousness of God in Christ of which you who believe have now become is a spiritual and legal truth** much more real and intimate than the breath you breath. My friend the test of your believe in the reality of your righteousness in Christ is evident in your equation of your standing before the Father vis-à-vis whether you perform good works or how you view yourself when you sin. If you think you have to do good works to be righteous you got it backwards. **You do good works because you are righteousness. Truly, good works are the fruits of God's righteousness at work in the believer.** When the bible says we are to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, it is not talking about self-righteousness, or righteousness apart from God. We are to **work out from within i.e. submit to the righteousness of God that is already within us so that it can be produced through us to be seen of all for God's glory. Amen.**

So what is the righteousness of God? It is definitely not a feeling or an obscure concept. **The righteousness of God is a state of being.** God's righteousness is what sets him apart from His created beings and **it speaks of His nature, the divine nature that is beyond reproach or attainment.** Adam didn't create himself into

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*Now abides faith, hope, love, these three: but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13*

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the image and likeness of God neither did you when you accepted Jesus. **The righteousness of God cannot be created, produced, attained, earned, manipulated or duplicated by the efforts of man.** It is the righteousness from God above apart from the law that Paul talks about in Romans 2-10. That is why God considers the righteousness of man as filthy rags. The righteousness of God can only be imputed by God. And that is exactly what God did to you when you believed. Because you associated your self with Christ through believe in your heart and confession with your mouth, God accredited His righteousness in Christ to your account by making you into a new creation, a species of being that never existed before. God created Adam in His image and likeness. However in Christ, God made us (i.e. our spirit man) into His very righteousness. The righteousness of God is perfection and the bible says that the spirit (not soul or body) of those who have been justified have been made perfect (**Hebrews 12:23**) Alleluia.

**Your spirit man is as righteous as it will ever be because it has been made the perfect righteousness of God.** That is why we are admonished in the scriptures to conduct our lives in the spirit. (**Galatians 5:16**) It is imperative that we are constantly feeding our spirit man with the faith building word of God and allow the spirit man (the seat of the Holy Spirit within the believer) to dominate our soul so as to keep the flesh under. The identity of Christ in the believer is righteousness. **He is righteous and so are you because you are In Him. It is a free gift that cannot be earned.**

At one point in my Christian life, because of the doctrines of men I walked the tedious, burdensome, sin conscious, guilt laden, unworthy minded, self-works propelled, (instead of love) etc, path of religiosity. But praise God I encountered the truth of the word of God and my life has never been the same. Romans 5:1 tells me that since I have been justified i.e. acquitted, declared righteous and given a right standing with God through faith I must grasp and hold on to the truth that I have peace with God. That is right. You are at peace with God. The war and enmity of v.10 is over with. The power of Satan over your life has been broken. **He has no legal right to claim over you if you are in Christ.** It's up to you to enforce it by the power of His grace. There is therefore **now** (the tense-present) no condemnation (eternal separation from the life of God) to those who are in Christ Jesus-period. Unfortunately, when we allow the dictates of the flesh (contrary to the spirit) to dominate our life style and we are not growing in grace by allowing Him to do His work in our hearts and we don't have a desire for the things of the Lord, we come under the snare of the devil. The result is condemnation (not from God) from the devil and from self and a feeling of unworthiness.

**The foundational effect of a heart solidly rooted and grounded in the knowledge and truth of righteousness is peace-with God and self.** **Ephesians2: 14-15** says, "For he is our peace...having abolished in his flesh the enmity..." The righteousness of God comes to establish His peace within our hearts and to reveal to us the dimensions of the love of our father God. His righteousness in Christ reveals our state of beloved ness and the privileged position of been made and called His children. The righteousness of God comes to reveal the freedom accorded to the believer by God's grace to live in newness of life free from the dominion of the curse of the law (poverty, sickness and death. Galatians 3:13-14;Deuteronomy 28-16-68) It reveals the power of God bestowed in and on the believer to serve our Father God in the spirit of freedom, love and gratitude. It reveals who we are, what we have and what we can do through Christ our strength.

Do you know that the righteousness of God in your life has opened the way for you to be all that God wills for you to be? Submit to the identity of Christ in you by the faith in your heart, the confession of your mouth and the resulting effect will be a life that reveals the righteousness of God. You are righteous because God says so. Been justified and at peace with God, beloved, a royal priest, accepted in Christ the beloved because

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God says so. Accept nothing less and press into nothing less than God's best. May His grace so help us all in Jesus name. Amen. Next time as we continue this study we will be looking at what we have in Christ specifically our redemption from the curse of the law. The Lord richly bless you. You are precious.

**Shalom,**  
*Kenneth Etta*

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