



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

According to a Barna Research article entitled, "[Year in Review: Barna's Top 10 Releases of 2023](#)" what percentage of people surveyed had a positive opinion of Jesus?

- A. 71%
- B. 57%
- C. 11%
- D. 39%

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²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

If people love Jesus so much, why is Christianity declining at such a rapid rate in America?

BARNA POLL

Would you say that you, personally, have a positive or negative opinion of each of the following?

| | Total | Christians | Other Faith | No Faith |
|-----------------------------|-------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Jesus | 71% | 84% | 58% | 40% |
| Spirituality | 65% | 75% | 57% | 42% |
| Bible | 63% | 78% | 52% | 28% |
| Christianity | 57% | 74% | 36% | 21% |
| Churches in your community | 47% | 58% | 34% | 22% |
| Christian pastors or priest | 44% | 56% | 33% | 18% |

Would you say that you, personally, have a positive or negative opinion of each of the following?

| | Total | Christians | Other Faith | No Faith |
|--|-------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Evangelicals | 26% | 31% | 24% | 9% |
| Famous or well known worship bands | 26% | 30% | 29% | 12% |
| Famous people or celebrities who are Christian | 26% | 30% | 25% | 14% |
| Celebrity pastors | 17% | 19% | 19% | 9% |
| Megachurches | 16% | 17% | 21% | 9% |

CREATION & reCREATION

Creates
(God said)

Separates
(God
separates)

**Examines (God
saw)**

Purposes
(consecration)

CREATION

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV)

CREATION

First creation is not said to be good nor bad (Gen 1:1-2)

³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Genesis 1:3-5 (NIV)

reCREATION

new

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

John 3:1-6 (NIV)

³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."
⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

John 3:1-6 (NIV)

⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are **born of water and the Spirit**. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:1-6 (NIV)

reCREATION

1. **Create Good** — “good” defined as that which reflects God (Mark 10:18; Gen 1:3-5)

¹⁷As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

Mark 10:17-18 (NIV)

reCREATION

1. **Create Good** — “good” defined as that which reflects God (Mark 10:18; Gen 1:3-5)

2. **Be Good** (reflection of God) brings life - the reflection of God in everything you create

How do we become new creations in Christ?

reCREATION

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Call | Justification |
| Repentance | Sanctification (separation) |
| Regeneration | Glorification |

Why is SANCTIFICATION is our biggest challenge?

Because it requires us to deny ourselves.

¹Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. ²So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of

Leviticus 10:1-10 (NIV)

when he said:
" 'Among those who approach me
I will be proved holy;
in the sight of all the people
I will be honored.' "
Aaron remained silent.
⁴Moses summoned Mishael and Elzaphan,
sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to

Leviticus 10:1-10 (NIV)

them, "Come here; carry your cousins outside the camp, away from the front of the sanctuary." ⁵So they came and carried them, still in their tunics, outside the camp, as Moses ordered.
⁶Then Moses said to Aaron and his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not let your hair become unkempt and do not tear your

Leviticus 10:1-10 (NIV)

clothes, or you will die and the LORD will be angry with the whole community. But your relatives, all the Israelites, may mourn for those the LORD has destroyed by fire.
⁷Do not leave the entrance to the tent of meeting or you will die, because the LORD's anointing oil is on you." So they did as Moses said.

Leviticus 10:1-10 (NIV)

⁸Then the LORD said to Aaron, ⁹"You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, ¹⁰so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean.

Leviticus 10:1-10 (NIV)

proCREATION

3. Do or Produce Good — birth or reproduce the reflection of God everywhere you go and in everything you touch
(Col. 3:17; Matt. 28:19-20)

According to the same article entitled, "Year in Review: Barna's Top 10 Releases of 2023" this number has decreased how many percentage points in the past 20 years?

- A. 20-25%
- B. > 40%
- C. < 10%
- D. 18%

Be the change you want to see in the world.

God re-creates heaven and earth in stages. Choose an area of your life and work diligently to make it reflect Christ.

Be the change.
