

## **Philippians 1.1-11** **The Great Exchange**

### **Summary**

Some amazing things happen when someone becomes a Christian. These all come by grace from God to us.

#### **1. A new nature – instead of a sinner, a saint (v1)**

Born again, regenerate, a new creation (2 Cor 5.17, 2 Pet 1.4). Even if you sin, your new nature cannot change back again. You are holy.

#### **2. A new passion – instead of self-centred, a love for the church (v3,4,8)**

If you love Jesus, you will love the church, because she is his body and his passion. The church is the theological centre of the Bible – if you don't love the church you won't understand the Bible!

#### **3. A new assurance – instead of uncertainty, confidence (v6)**

God has begun this work of salvation in you and He will finish it. 1 Pet 1.5 – if you have been born again you cannot lose your salvation.

#### **4. A new heart – instead of a deceitful bad heart, a trustworthy good one (v7)**

Paul makes the connection between what is in your heart and what is right. When you were born again you had a heart transplant (Ez 36.25-27). You can trust your heart. The primary way God guides you is by what he has put into your heart (Phil 2.13)

#### **5. A new seed – instead of increasing wickedness, a growing righteousness (v9-11)**

1 Jn 3.9-10 gives another picture of being born again: God putting a holy seed in you which grows and produces fruit your whole life. One of the evidences that you are born again is that your love for God and holiness grows throughout your life.

### **Questions for Personal Application**

1. How does knowing you're a saint affect the way you live?
2. How is the church the centre of the Bible? How does this help you understand the Bible?
3. Do you love God's church? How do you express this love?
4. Do you feel you have assurance of salvation?
5. Do you trust your heart? What desires, dreams and longings has God put in your heart?
6. Is your love for God growing? How do you know?
7. Which one of the 5 truths above has impacted you the most? What are you going to do about it?