

**GRACE
BIBLE
CHURCH**

— *Lorton* —

16 From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! ...

18 Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. **19** That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us. ...

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." **21** He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

MAIN IDEA

In 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Paul reminds believers that we are to live as new creations in Christ by embracing God's gift of reconciliation and sharing His message as ambassadors to this world

14 For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion, that one died for all, and therefore all died. **15** And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

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17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Living as New Creations

We are to no longer see others in a paradigm of earthly standards. But instead, we are called to see people in light of their standing with Christ;

They are either fellow believers that are family we are to be unified with or unbelievers in need of God's message of reconciliation.

Living as New Creations

When a person becomes a Christian, there is a total restructuring of life that alters its whole fabric --- thinking, feeling, willing, and acting.

Think of it this way. Anyone who is “in Christ” is like someone who has a sign out front that says, “under new management.”

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- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Embracing God's Gift of Reconciliation

What does "Reconciliation" mean?

Typically, it refers to two people who were at great odds with one another overcome their differences, and they return to a relationship of harmony and growth rather than one of discord and atrophy.

The ministry of reconciliation therefore involves more than simply explaining to others what God has done in Christ. It requires that one become an *active reconciler oneself*.

Like Christ, a minister of reconciliation plunges into the midst of human tumult to bring harmony out of chaos, reconciliation out of estrangement, and love in the place of hate

- David Garland

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- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Paul is not interested in the *abstract doctrine* of reconciliation but in the *concrete task* of reconciliation. The church not only is to preserve sound doctrine but is called by God to be, as apostles were, a reconciling force.

² For He says:

At an acceptable time I listened to you,

And in the day of salvation I helped you.

See, now is the acceptable time; now is
the day of salvation

**See, now is the acceptable time;
now is the day of salvation**