

New Year's Service
Study Guide
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1. Share with each other some of your experiences in making new year's resolutions.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What do you think it means to be a 'new creation'? If we are new, in Christ, then why do we still fail at times? Discuss.
3. Read the context leading up to verse 17:
 - v. 14b- "...one has died for all, therefore all have died."
 - v. 15a- "...that those who live might no longer live for themselves..."
 - v. 16a- "...therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh."So are we dead or alive?
Discuss the idea that we are a 'new creation' in the sense that we no longer are primarily physical, but spiritual beings. (see also Romans 14:17; Galatians 2:20). How does that change the way we approach life situations? Share examples.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. Give examples of what it means to be 'reconciled to God' and to help other people find that.
5. Take a few minutes for quiet reflection. (*Perhaps play some quiet music in the background*). Since our new life is primarily spiritual in nature:
 - a. Looking back, how have you seen God at work making you new?
 - b. Looking ahead, how do you want to see God transforming you?
 - c. What can you do to keep God on the forefront of your mind?

New Year's Service

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The **old has passed away**; behold, the **new has come**. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷"Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, he is a **new creation**. The **old has passed away**; behold, the **new has come**.

Announcements

- *Join a Community Group
- *Take Bless Practices Training
- *Men- Faith Essentials Bible Study
- *Women- Commit to Mentoring
- *Students- Tundra Retreat

2 Corinthians 5:17

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2 Corinthians 5:14 & 15

"...one has died for all, therefore all have died; ...that those who live might no longer live for themselves..."

2 Corinthians 5:16a

"...therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh."

Big Idea: It's not primarily physical, it's spiritual.

Romans 14:17

"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷"Therefore, if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a **new creation**. The **old has passed away**; behold, the **new has come**."

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the **ministry of reconciliation**; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the **message of reconciliation**. ²⁰Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, God making **his appeal through us**.

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Bless Practices Logo

- **Begin with Prayer:** for and with unchurched people
- **Listen:** ASK QUESTIONS, including about their spiritual story

- **Eat:** Show hospitality and build the relationship
- **Serve and Ask for Help:** Care for them, let them care for me
- **Share my Story an the Good News of Jesus:** Invite Response

2 Corinthians 5:21

"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.**"

Reflection

1. Looking back, how have I seen God at work making me new?
2. Looking ahead, how do I want to see God transforming me?
3. What can I do to keep God on the forefront of my mind?