



Introducing The New You

2 Corinthians 5:11-21
March 20, 2022

The Big Idea: For the Christian, there are two things which should get us up each day, ready to live for and serve God: our “**fear**” and His “**love**.” We know we are accountable to the Lord for all of our life and we are told He loves His children with perfect love. God’s assurance is that “in Christ” He has already made us new creations. Now, let’s **live** like it!

2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (ESV)

5 ¹¹ Therefore, *knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.* But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For *the love of Christ* controls us, because *we have concluded this:* that one has died for all, therefore *all have died*; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live *might no longer live for themselves* but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ *From now on*, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation*. The *old has passed away*; behold, the *new has come*. ¹⁸ All this is from **God**, *who through Christ reconciled us to himself* and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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*. ²⁰ *Therefore*, we are ambassadors for Christ, *God making his appeal*

through us. *We implore you* on behalf of Christ, *be reconciled to God*. ²¹ For our sake *he made him to be sin who knew no sin*, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

CHRIST’S NEW CREATIONS ...

1. Will speak to the Lord about their **friends** and to their friends about the **Lord**, knowing we will stand accountable to Him for our lives and opportunities. (v. 11)
2. Follow the pattern of the Lord and care more about people’s **hearts** than their **faces** (v. 12, 16).
3. Are overwhelmed and **driven** by Christ’s love for them and others, so much so that we are liberated from our **self**-centered living and instead, live for Christ. (vv. 14-15)
4. Know and live in the **reconciling** work of God:
 - God **came** after us – He is the initiator of reconciliation
 - We are reconciled through what **Christ** did on the Cross
 - God then commissions every Christian with a **ministry** of reconciliation – living as His **representative** in a land that largely doesn’t know Him.
5. Live in gratitude for what God did in the “**Great Exchange**” (v. 21):
 - Christ, the sinless one, **took** my sin and God’s wrath;
 - The Father **gives** us the righteousness of Christ.

“We implore you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.”

2 Corinthians 5:20 b
