

A NEW YEAR,
A NEW YOU

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

(continued...)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

(continued...)

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 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 5:14-21

A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU...

A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU...

- A New Creation: The Reconciliation of God in Us
- A New Perspective: The Lens of Reconciliation
- A New Purpose: The Work of Reconciliation

A NEW CREATION: THE RECONCILIATION OF GOD IN US

...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...

2 Corinthians 5:17

A new creation is hard to see...

“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 3:4

A new creation happens from the inside out.

“The final consummation of the Redeemer’s kingdom in heaven is described, Rev. 21:5, in the same terms. ‘He that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new.’ The inward spiritual change in every believer is set forth in the same words, because it is the type and necessary condition of this great cosmical change. What would avail any conceivable change in things external...

(continued...)

...if the heart remained a cage of unclean birds?
The apostle therefore says that if any man is in Christ he experiences a change analogous to that predicted by the prophets and like to that which we still anticipate when the earth shall become heaven. 'Old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.' Old opinions, views, plans, desires, principles, and affections are passed away...

(continued...)

...new views of truth, new principles, new apprehensions of the destiny of man, and new feelings and purposes fill and govern the soul.”

Charles Hodge, *Geneva Series of Commentaries of 1&2 Corinthians*

...The old is gone...

2 Corinthians 5:17

A new creation lives for Christ.

“The renewed man acts upon new principles, by new rules, with new ends, and in new company. The believer is created anew; his heart is not merely set right, but a new heart is given him. He is the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Though the same as a man, he is changed in his character and conduct. These words must and do mean more than an outward reformation.

(continued...)

The man who formerly saw no beauty in the Savior that he should desire him, now loves him above all things.”

Matthew Henry

A new creation is compelled by the love of Christ.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE: THE LENS OF RECONCILIATION

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:16



A NEW PURPOSE: THE WORK OF RECONCILIATION

A Message and Ministry of Reconciliation

“God is the source of reconciliation, while Paul is his instrument in bringing it to fruition.”

2 Corinthians, The NIV Application Commentary



“In my studio, I use ground minerals such as malachite and azurite, layering them to create prismatic refractions, or ‘visual jazz.’ Via my art I hope to create a mediated reality of beauty, hope, and reconciled relationships and cultures. As a founding Elder of the Village Church, I have found that mediation of any kind is never black-and-white but prismatic and complex too.

(continued...)

In order to find hope even in the midst of the broken and torn fragments of relationships, in order to begin to journey in to the heart of the divide, we must first be willing to be broken ourselves in to prismatic shards by the Master Artist, God, so that Christ's light can be refracted in us."

Makoto Fujimara, Refractions, *A Journey of Faith, Art, and Culture*