

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 Therefore from now on we recognize no one [a]according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ [b]according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer. 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [c]he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and [d]He has [e]committed to us the word of reconciliation.

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Sermon Points

1. Disciples, when joined to Christ, see the world in a new way (16).
2. Disciples, when joined to Christ, are made new (17).
3. Disciples, when joined to Christ, receive the ministry of reconciliation (18-21).

Questions

1. In what ways have you regarded Christ and others incorrectly, according to the flesh, and how should the gospel now change and shape how you view Christ and others (believers and non-believers)?
2. How does your new life in union with Christ empower you to relate differently towards others? Comment on how the metaphor ambassadors of Christ should impact your way of relating to others.
3. Why is it important that every believer be able to explain to others what God has done in Christ? Fill out your prayer card and pray with your small group for those listed.
4. In what ways can you support the ministry of reconciliation taking place through Emmanuel Bible Church? How is serving in the church part of participating in God's ministry of reconciliation? Which area is the Lord calling you to serve in? How is your current service in the church part of God's plan of reconciliation?
5. How can we better encourage and support our missionaries who are ambassadors of Christ in other contexts?