

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel life gives people new
perspective and purpose – Pt 2



We have the means to stop making worldly assessments of others (5:16)

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.

We have a new way of life empowering us to declare peace
with God in Christ (5:17-19)

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

We have a new way of life empowering us to declare peace with God in Christ (5:17-19)

- “*All this is from God*” – every aspect of spiritual life and transformation begins with God’s initiative and is sustained by His sufficiency.
 - Men and women do not earn God’s attention or merit His compassion.
 - God gives us life and changes our desires.
- “*who through Christ reconciled us to himself*”
 - Justification describes the legal declaration of sinners as righteous because they trust in Jesus.
 - Reconciliation describes not only the cessation of hostility and distance, but also God’s provision of peace bringing the benefits of God’s unending attention, care and concern.
 - Those who were once hostile enemies find open access to the riches of God’s provisions and care through the gospel of Jesus.
 - It is all of God’s grace in Jesus and there is no place for being smug or boasting.

We have a new way of life empowering us to declare peace with God in Christ (5:17-19)

- “*and gave us the ministry of reconciliation*”
 - The ministry of gospel reconciliation is a *service* God uses us to provide as we share with others the wonder of God’s saving grace and His loving care of His children.
 - Drawing constantly on God’s enablement, our resolve should be persistent and our delight to serve God and others should be evident.
 - The service (ministry) we provide is the uncontained delight and satisfaction we have with God coupled with a longing to share it with others.

We have a new way of life empowering us to declare peace with God in Christ (5:17-19)

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.

- By God's mercy we are empowered to be messengers of reconciliation, not determiners of who deserves it and who doesn't.
- We personally know and experience the peace we are called to share.
- The peace we share is not just the silent witness of a life at peace with God.
- "*the message of reconciliation*" - we are to verbalize the glorious gospel message
 - 1 Peter 1:22-25
- The fantastic work of God's reconciling mercy to sinners through Jesus is a message that those who have been reconciled must share.

We have authority to proclaim the gospel of justification as terms of peace (5:20-21)

²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ,*

- An ambassador is a high-ranking official of a government who represents that government among other nations, speaking with the authority of the nation behind him or her.
- It is important for an ambassador to understand the role he or she has and not to give in under pressure.
 - Paul comes with the authority of Jesus supporting him.
 - He will not change the message or buckle under the pressure of opposition.
 - Paul not only wants Corinth to understand his role, he wants them to accept their roles as ambassadors as well.
 - Matthew 28:18-20

We have authority to proclaim the gospel of justification as terms of peace (5:20-21)

God making his appeal through us.

- The message of ambassadors for Jesus is not personally contrived.
- We have been entrusted the truth of the gospel and we must proclaim it accurately, humbly and boldly.

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

- Some among the Corinthian church are not at peace with God.
- They have turned away from the truth Paul shares with them about humble dependence on gospel truth.

We have authority to proclaim the gospel of justification as terms of peace (5:20-21)

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.

- This verse cannot mean that Jesus committed sin.
 - Hebrews 4:15
 - 1 Peter 2:22
 - 1 John 3:5
- Jesus was one “*who knew no sin*” before His incarnation and following His incarnation.
- God made His sinless Son to become the sin bearer for all those He came to save.
 - Isaiah 53:6
 - Galatians 3:13
- There is no peace with God outside of Jesus being our sin-bearer and our receiving His righteousness as God’s gift.

Questions to Consider

- Do you feel overwhelmed by your sin and weakness? Jesus is your justification and your peace!
- Having experienced the glorious benefits of peace with God, are you willing to engage in the ministry of reconciliation?
- Will you accept your role to share the truth of reconciliation visibly and verbally?

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