

Life Group Guide 2 Cor 5:14–17 “A New Creation in Christ”
For the Sermon Preached on Sun Feb 18 & For Use in Life Groups through Sun Feb 25

Icebreaker Question

When was the last time you had to start something brand new (new job, new city, brand new house, etc.)? What was that experience like? Did the fact that it was brand new make it easier or harder?

Pastor Richard’s Sermon Outline

- I. Every believer is a new creation in Christ (vv. 14-17a).**
 - a. Christ paid your sin debt making you a new creation (vv. 14-15).
 - b. What changes when Christ makes you a new creation?
 - i. As a new creation in Christ you have a new way of life (vv. 14-15).
 - ii. As a new creation in Christ your old nature no longer controls you (v. 17a).
 - iii. As a new creation in Christ all things have become new (v. 17b).
 - iv. As a new creation in Christ, you have a new outlook concerning people in your circle of influence (v. 16).
- II. What are the practical implications of being a new creation (v. 17)?**
 - a. For a believer, the transformation produced by the new birth is not only an instantaneous miracle but also a lifelong process of sanctification.
 - b. 7 Benefits of Being a New Creation in Christ
 - i. New Beginnings (Rom. 3:23-24)
 - ii. New Relationship (Eph. 2:13)
 - iii. New Identity (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
 - iv. New Destiny (Phil. 3:18-20)
 - v. New Position (Eph. 2:6)
 - vi. New Power (Acts 1:8)
 - vii. New Purpose (Eph. 2:10)

2 Corinthians 5:14–15

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14–15: Observation:

1. According to v. 14, what should control us?
2. What is Paul’s first conclusion from the love of Christ in v. 14?
3. What is Paul’s second conclusion from the love of Christ in v. 15?
4. According to v. 15, what does it mean that Christ died for our sins?

Interpretation:

5. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 Paul makes a two-fold argument from the death of Christ (that we just reviewed in the Observation questions). What does he say about the death of Christ? What does he say about the world? What does he say about us? How might all this radically alter the way we live.

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Application:

6. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:15 this week and recite it when you need a reminder that we live for Christ and his mission: **“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.”**

7. Given your current stage in life, what are the areas in which you find it hardest to live for Jesus and not for yourself? What makes this so hard? Why is it so easy to confuse living for Jesus and doing what we want?

2 Corinthians 5:16–17

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16–17: Observation

- 8. According to v. 16, how does Paul no longer regard people?
- 9. In v. 16 who does Paul say he used to regard according to the flesh?
- 10. If we are in Christ, what do we become according to v. 17?
- 11. What does that mean for “the old”? What about “the new”?

Interpretation

12. In v. 17, Paul describes us as a “new creation” to appeal to his readers to live a certain way. What does it mean to be a new creation? If we limit our discussion to just 1 Corinthians 5, how is Paul trying to get us to live?

13. Being a new creation in Christ does not mean we are sinless. **Read 1 John 3:4-9.** What is the difference between habitual sin and struggling with sin? Why do you think John speaks so strongly here?

Application

14. In the sermon Pastor Richard surveyed seven benefits to being a new creation in Christ. Review those briefly and ask the following questions: Which of these are easy for me? Which of these do I struggle with? Brainstorm with your group how you might better follow Jesus in these areas? Read each of the texts if you have time.

15. In #11 above we surveyed 2 Corinthians 5 for instructions on how we ought to live as a “new creations.” What other instructions should we consider that are not present in 2 Corinthians 5? What other Scripture texts should we consider here?
