

The text ... 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, **who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.** ¹⁹ that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, **and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.** ²⁰ Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God.** ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Notice ... **RECONCILIATION** shows up 5x ... the **KEY INGREDIENT & THEME**
Answers ... *Why are we on earth?* ... this passage gives us the answer

All of this **RECONCILIATION** is only possible **IN CHRIST**... Look at vs17

2 Corinthians 5:17

¹⁷ Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ**, he is a **new creation**; **old things have passed away**; behold, **all things have become new**.

QUESTION ... How does one get **IN CHRIST**?

Romans 5:6-8

⁶ You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless**, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

John 1:12

¹² But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

☐ **IN CHRIST** I have **FORGIVENESS** with God ... Sins Forgiven – Made Righteous

1 John 2:12

¹² I am writing to you, dear children, because **your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.**

Ephesians 1:7

⁷ In Him we have **redemption through His blood**, the **forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of His grace

☐ **IN CHRIST** I have **SONSHIP** with God ... We become a part of God's

Romans 8:5

¹⁵ *The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And **by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”***

Ephesians 1:5

⁴ *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world **to be holy and blameless** in his sight. In love ⁵ **he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will.*

□ **IN CHRIST** I have **INHERITANCE** with God ... His Heir

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴ *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ **to redeem** those who were under the law, that we might **receive the adoption as sons**. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” ⁷ **Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son**, and if a son, then an **heir of God through Christ**.*

□ **IN CHRIST** I have **SECURITY** with God ... Eternal Security – God Is Always With Me

John 10:28-29

²⁸ *And I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish**; neither shall anyone **snatch them out of My hand**. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand**.*

Romans 8:38-39

³⁸ *For I am persuaded that neither **death** nor **life**, nor **angels** nor **principalities** nor **powers**, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, **shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus** our Lord.*

When we are IN CHRIST things change

1. **OUR CHANGES** ...

A. **Change #1 in Christ** – We are a **NEW CREATION** – **BORN AGAIN** (1 Jn 5:3-4)

John 3:1-6 ... *a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus*

⁴ *“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!” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, **no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit**. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you He made alive, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, ² in which you **once walked according to the course of this world**, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also **we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind**, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others.

Titus 3:4-5

⁴ But when **the kindness and the love of God** our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ **not by works of righteousness** which we have done, **but according to His mercy He saved us**, through the **washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**,

1 Peter 1:3, 23

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**, ...
²³ **having been born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides **forever**,

1 John 2:29, 3:9

²⁹ If you know that he is righteous, you know that **everyone who does what is right has been born of Him**... ⁹ **No one who is born of God will continue to sin**, because **God's seed remains in them**; they **cannot go on sinning**, because they have been **born of God**.

B. Change #2 in Christ – OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY!

Our old way of living – **our life BEFORE God** – without Jesus has passed away

"How to Be Miserable." ... Daily Walk, June 29, 1993, unknown source

"Think about yourself. Talk about yourself. Use 'I' as often as possible. Mirror yourself continually in the opinion of others. Listen greedily to what people say about you. Expect to be appreciated. Be suspicious. Be jealous and envious. Be sensitive to slights. Never forgive a criticism. Trust nobody but yourself. Insist on consideration and respect. Demand agreement with your own views on everything. Sulk if people are not grateful to you for favors shown them. Never forget a service you have rendered. Shirk your duties if you can. Do as little as possible for others."

BEFORE CHRIST we lived for OURSELVES.

Our VALUE SYSTEM – PRIORITIES – ATTITUDE – BELIEFS – LOVES are all gone

Romans 14:7-8 NLT

⁷ For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, it's **to honor the Lord**. And if we die, it's **to honor the Lord**. So whether we live or die, **we belong to the Lord**.

A new perspective, direction, attitude and purpose in life ... See the world differently

HOW do I Live This Way? It takes the same **MINDSET** AS JESUS

Philippians 2:5-7

⁵ **Have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:** ⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;* ⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing (he humbled himself) by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

C. **Change #3 in Christ** – **ALL THINGS ARE NEW!** (James 2:14-25, Eph 2:10)

We view and live life differently – through the eyes of eternity

IN CHRIST EVERYTHING CHANGES ... HOW – WHY – WHO – WHAT we live for!

Colossians 3:8-10

⁸ *But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.* ⁹ *Do not lie to one another, since you have **put off the old man** with his deeds,* ¹⁰ *and have **put on the new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*

Ephesians 4:22-24

²² *You were taught, with regard to **your former way of life**, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;* ²³ ***to be made new in the attitude of your minds**;* ²⁴ *and to **put on the new self**, created to **be like God** in true righteousness and holiness.*

2. **OUR COMMISSION** ...

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

*Now all things are of God, **who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and **has given us the ministry of reconciliation**.* ²⁰ *Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through **us**: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.*

This is the **PURPOSE** of EVERY Believer – **WHY** we are on earth

The **MANDATE** God has given us for **EVERY BELIEVER**

To **PARTICIPATE** in and **PROCLAIM** the Ministry of Reconciliation

Our purpose is to be **AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST** – **GOD's KINGDOM** on earth.

This passage is a broader explanation of **THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ **teaching** them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

The **ONLY REASON** we are **left on earth** is for the **Ministry of Reconciliation**

3. **OUR CALLING ... LIVE as AMBASSADORS**

1 Corinthians 5:20

²⁰ Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.

Tell sinners – to declare – to share the message of how sinners can be reconciled to God

This is our **PURPOSE** to **LIVE as AMBASSADORS** for the Kingdom of God

There's **ONE THING** we won't do in heaven ... **TELL PEOPLE** they can be reconciled to God.

There is **NO EVANGELISM IN HEAVEN** ... NOW is the time

WE ARE THE MESSANGERS

Ambassadors **REPRESENT** and **SPEAK FOR** the **KINGDOM OF GOD**

Ambassadors ONLY speak what the **KING** sends them to say

AMBASSADORS live as **ALIENS** in foreign lands

AMBASSADORS have **DIFFERENT TRADITIONS** and **LIFESTYLES**

Philippians 4:20-21

²⁰ For **our citizenship is in heaven**, from which **we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**, ²¹ who **will transform our lowly body** that it may **be conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Hebrews 13:14

¹⁴ For this world is **not our home**; we are looking forward to our **everlasting home in heaven**.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And **do not be conformed to this world**, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

The NIV says ...

² **Do not conform to the pattern of this world** but **be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**.

Ephesians 4:21-24

²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you **put off**, concerning **your former conduct**, the old man which grows **corrupt** according to the **deceitful lusts**, ²³ and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind**, ²⁴ and that you **put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

4. **OUR CONFUSION** ... WAIT, isn't this the pastor's job?

Ephesians 4:11-16

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ¹¹ And **He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,** ¹² for the **equipping of the saints for the work of ministry,** for the **edifying of the body of Christ,** ¹³ till we all come to the **unity of the faith** and of the **knowledge of the Son of God,** to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should **no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the **trickery** of men, in the cunning craftiness of **deceitful plotting,** ¹⁵ but, **speaking the truth in love,** may **grow up in all things** into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which **every part does its share,** **causes growth of the body** for the edifying of itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... ⁴ There are **diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.** ⁵ There are **differences of ministries, but the same Lord.** ⁶ And there are **diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.** ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is **given to each one for the profit of all:** ⁸ for to **one is given the word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the **working of miracles,** to another **prophecy,** to another **discerning of spirits,** to another **different kinds of tongues,** to another the **interpretation of tongues.** ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one** individually as He wills.

Acts 1:7-8

He said to them, "It is not for **you** to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸ But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has **come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1 Corinthians 3:8-9a

⁸ Now **he who plants** and **he who waters** are one, and **each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.** ⁹ For **we are God's fellow workers**...

Mark 16:16-18

¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow **those who believe:** In My name **they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;** ¹⁸ **they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**"

The **ONLY REASON** we are left on earth is for the **Ministry of Reconciliation**

Our **PURPOSE** as believers is to **LIVE as AMBASSADORS** for the Kingdom of God

(1 Cor. 6:17; Gal. 3:28, John 15:4-5; 17:23, Rom. 8:1, 6:5-11, Eph. 1:3, 13, Rom 8:38-39, 1 Cor. 12:12-27, Rev 12:10, Eph. 3:1-6, Rom. 8:16-17, Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27, Col. 3:3-4, Eph. 2:1-7, Phil 4:13, James 2:14-25, Eph 2:10)