

Backyard Missionaries  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

As a person who is in Christ, who does God say I am?

Today as we look at 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 we want to better understand...

Being a new creation in Jesus

God's reconciliation

God's trust to us because we are His new creations

Living as Ambassadors for Christ/Backyard Missionary

Let pray before we read the Scriptures.....

**2 Cor 5<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God**

**So who does God say a person in Christ is.....**

**New creation**

**Minister of reconciliation**

**Ambassador of Christ**

**New Creation in Christ....**

**<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself**

**In Christ.....Old is passed away....new has come**

all who by faith have repented of their sin and trust Christ for their salvation are NEW CREATIONS and in a renewed relationship with our father!

**We are New Creations because of God's reconciliation through Jesus Christ**

Reconciled...bringing an alienated sinful person back into unity, harmony and peace with God through the work of Jesus....God making Christ sin who knew/had no sin

Christ took on our sins and paid the penalty for all our sins  
Brought back into original right relationship

More than justified....imputed Christ's righteousness with the right renewed relationship

Gospel in action...Christ who knew no sin became sin in our place and paid the full price for our reconciliation

We have New life in Jesus    Made alive in Christ by God our Father

Fully forgiven and at peace with God  
Assurance of Forgiveness

Sealed by Holy Spirit and having the Holy Spirit live in us  
Have the same Holy Spirit who raised Christ from the dead

Being made new by Holy Spirit  
Satan and Sin no longer has power over us  
God sees us through Christ's righteousness because Christ took on our sins, paid the penalty through his death and resurrection and God gave us Christ's righteousness

**<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God**

**All this is because of God's reconciliation and work in us.**

**Since we are a new Creation, God has now entrusted us with the ministry and message of reconciliation as Ambassadors for Christ...backyard missionaries ...see vs 18-20**

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vs. 18 God reconciled us and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

vs. 19 entrusting to us the message of reconciliation

vs. 20 We are Ambassadors for Christ, backyard missionaries  
we employ you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God

**You and I are minister of reconciliation and Ambassadors for Christ!  
That is what God says...**

**Christ's official representative sent into our world under His  
authority in the power of the Holy Spirit Matt 28, Acts 1:8**

**Official representative....**

God has called you as an ambassador of Christ and a minister of reconciliation

**Represent Jesus...**

may be the only Jesus some will ever see....

Someone says what does Jesus look and act like....what is your answer....look at me

**Sent into his world**

Jesus said as the Father has sent me...so send I you

God has ordained our time and places in this world

**Sent to do what.....**

**Ministry of reconciliation with the message of reconciliation**

living out our reconciliation with God, **so they can see and experience it.**

Peace with God

Renewed right relationship with God

Assurance of forgiveness and acceptance by God

Living out grace

Living in relationship with others as reconciled people

## **Ministry of reconciliation with the message of reconciliation**

More than just living out must be ready to share the hope

Message of reconciliation

Be able and willing to share how you were reconciled

Now a new creation in Christ because of Christ's work for us on cross and resurrection

God paid the price in full through JC so that we might be reconciled

Now I am his...will you come to Christ

Sharing the Gospel...Creator God...created man in his image to enjoy God

Man's sin...breaks relationship...separated...dead spiritual

Christ is the perfect sacrifice...only way back to our creator God

Repent....believe and receive

God desires of all people to be reconciled

How to be reconciled.

## **Sent where as Ambassador of Christ....**

### **Into our World where He has placed us backyard missionaries**

That means...our homes, our work places, our neighborhoods.....wherever we go

Always building relationships as backyard missionaries

How can we be the minister of reconciliation at work...many of us over 50% of our waking hours. Home? In our neighborhood? how do we live out ministry of reconciliation?

## **Be Ambassador for Christ with the ministry of reconciliation and the message of reconciliation**

### **Accept our calling and position**

2 Cor. 5<sup>14</sup> For the **love of Christ controls us,** because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and 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.

Christ's love control our lives

Not about me....living for Jesus

## **Live out who we are in Jesus**

## **Show people what it looks like to be in a reconciled relationship with our creator God**

Col 3<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

How do you do your work.....done for Jesus

How do you treat other people....in compassion as Jesus did or judgmental and critical

Talk, your Words...spoken or written....facebook....spoken as though you are speaking the very words of God....we are his representative

Are we thankful.....focus on what we have in Jesus..

## **Attitude...reflect our relationship with our God and Christ...**

Shown very clearly by your mouth and words....

Phil. 2<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

Phil. 4<sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

Caught up in "if only I had"

## **Lifestyle represent Christ**

Gal. 5<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.<sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Do people see that we are marching to God's drum beat

**Real.....appropriately vulnerable**

Show how Christ intersects our lives.

**Ready to share the message of reconciliation**

Your story of how God reconciled you

Pray for people to give you the opportunity....then share when it is given

Need to pray and watch...

The world is looking for a Savior....they just don't know who and why  
As Ambassadors for Christ.....we have been given the privilege and calling to show and tell them the answers.

**Thoughts to ponder:**

- **Are you reconciled to God, a new creation in Jesus Christ?**
- **Have you accepted your position and calling as an Ambassador for Christ, a backyard missionary?**
- **In the power of the Holy Spirit, what area of your life do you need to focus on to be more faithful in your ministry of reconciliation as a backyard missionary?**
- **Are you consistently and expectantly praying for God to give you an opportunity to share the message of reconciliation?**

2 Cor 5<sup>11</sup> Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

2 Cor 5<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;