

**21 Days of Prayer and Fasting @  
Christ Community Church  
Wednesday, January 19, 2022  
Redemption - **Reconciliation** - Restoration**

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So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 6: 3

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The apostle Paul says that if you are "in Christ," you are a new creation. Do you think of yourself that way? What difference does it or could it make in your everyday life? If you don't see yourself as a new creation, ask the Holy Spirit why--and then ask him, "What are we going to do about it?"

Since Christ reconciled us (that is, restored our right relationship to the Father) and we are a new creation, what does it mean that he gave *us* the *ministry* of reconciliation? Since God has given you this ministry, take some time to ask Him to strengthen your character and prepare you.

In what ways are you already effective as an ambassador for Christ? In what ways do you need help from Him to be more effective? Take some time to thank Him for the ways He has made you effective; pray to Him for strength and maturity in the ways that you feel limited.

So, from now on we regard no one from a human point of view [according to worldly standards and values]. Though we have known Christ from a human point of view, now we no longer know Him *in this way*. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ [that is, grafted in, joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior], *he is* a new creature [reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit]; the old things [the previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, new things have come [because spiritual awakening brings a new life]. But all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ [making us acceptable to Him] and gave us the ministry of reconciliation [so that by our example we might bring others to Him], that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting people's sins against them [but canceling them]. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation [that is, restoration to favor with God]. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His appeal through us; we [as Christ's representatives] plead with you on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we would become the righteousness of God [that is, we would be made acceptable to Him and placed in a right relationship with Him by His gracious lovingkindness]. For He says, "At the acceptable time (the time of grace) I listened to you, And I helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"—  
2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 6: 3 (Amplified)

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Is it easy to see those around us as a new creature, reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit? If not, take time in your group to ask the Lord to help us see people the way He sees people.

Think about Christ Community Church and the greater church in general: How can we embrace this ministry of reconciliation? What will it look like when we do? Does such a vision excite you for what could be, or are you fearful of what it will require of you?

As you continue to pray and seek God, here are other verses about reconciliation to meditate on:  
Romans 5:10-11; Colossians 1:20-22, Philippians 2, Ephesians 2:14-22; Romans 12.  
**Please email responses to Pastor Derrick Shields at [derrick@ccclive.org](mailto:derrick@ccclive.org)**