

2 Corinthians 5.14-21

14For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **15**And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

16So 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. **17**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: **a** The old has gone, the new is here! **18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19**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. **20**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. **21**God made him who had no sin to be sin **b** for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5.17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

True new comes from Jesus 5.14-15

- Two kinds of new – new in time (*neos*) and new in quality (*kainos*)
- True new comes from being “in Christ” – he died my death, and I live his life.

Jesus specializes in new creation 5.17

- *...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come...*
 - The new kind of new – fresh, different, innovative, creative.
 - Not a resolution or intention; it's a new reality, a new creation!
- *...the old has gone, the new is here!*
 - What's old and deserves to be left behind in 2019?
 - What's hopes and intentions do you have for the new year & the new decade that need a new kind of new?

New creation changes everything 5.18-21

- My relationship with God is reconciled. 5.18a
- My purpose in life is defined as an ambassador. 5.18b and 5.20.
- My strained relationships are reconciled because I'm a new creation.

The passage ends with a reminder that this new kind of new comes from Jesus:

God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21