

Sermon Discussion Guide

“The Old Has Gone” Series

Part 1: United With Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17–21)

Icebreaker Questions: (*Option #1*): In lieu of this new sermon series (“The Old Has Gone”), what is one way you’ve changed over the years? This could be something about your personality, a food preference, an activity that you used to dislike that you now like (or vice versa), etc. (*Option #2*): What’s your all-time favorite movie?

Prayer: Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

Big Idea: Through union with Christ, God makes us new creations, reconciles us to himself, forgives us and gives us new righteousness, and commissions us to help others be reconciled to him.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read v. 17. What does it mean to be “in Christ”?
 - a. What is “union with Christ”? How does it shape our identity, hope, and mission?
 - b. What does it mean that “the new creation has come” and “the old has gone”? What is new? What is old?
 - c. Will we still struggle with sin after we become Christians? If so, what is different?
 - d. How have you seen God make you new?
3. Read vv. 18–20. What is the “ministry of reconciliation”? What does it mean to be “ambassadors” of Christ? How are you seeking to do this in your life? How would you like to grow in this area? What fears keep you from evangelism? What tools or approaches have been helpful to you in evangelizing to others and/or overcoming fears?
4. Read v. 21. What does it mean that God made him who knew no sin to “be sin for us”? What does it mean for us to “become the righteousness of God”? How should this shape the way we live, worship, or evangelize?
 - a. How should Christ’s sinlessness shape our relationship with him?
5. What does today’s passage (vv. 17–21) teach us about what God does with our sins? How can this give us hope? How does this passage give encouragement to those who are tempted to define themselves by their past?
6. How can our group better reflect the ministry of reconciliation?
7. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
8. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture passage or small group discussion this next week?

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17–21 (NIV)

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: 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 for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.