FIRST ASSEMBLY YOUNGSVILLE
A PLACE TO MEET WITH GOD

SUNDAY STUDY NOTES
October 25, 2026 | Pastor Joe Cormier

The Minister of Reconciliation

A new identity. A new responsibility.

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
Supporting texts: Matthew 18:15-17; Proverbs 16:28; Galatians 6:1

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ…" — 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV)

1 In Christ, we receive a new identity

Our identity begins with Jesus. The old life no longer has the right to rule us. We learn to live according to who we have become in Him.

Pride: "I don't need to change."
Shame: "I can never change."
The gospel: "In Christ, I am a new creation."

Your past no longer has the authority to define you—Jesus does!

We can receive correction, confess wrongdoing, repent, and make things right because our hope rests in Christ.

2 A new identity brings responsibility

God's order: He takes the initiative through Christ. We receive reconciliation with God. We become messengers of His reconciling work.

Reconciliation: Restoring a broken relationship; addressing what has separated us.

We carry the message of salvation, take responsibility for our conduct, seek peace and restoration, and refuse to fuel unnecessary division.

3 Be responsible for what you share

Proverbs 16:28 warns that gossip separates close friends. Tell the truth to the people who can help address it.

Gossip spreads stories, speculation, and division.
Responsible reporting brings known facts to appropriate people who can help protect, investigate, and restore.

Before speaking: What do I actually know? Why am I sharing? Can this person help? Am I willing to take responsibility for my words?

Notes

4 Take the next right step

Matthew 18:15-17 | The goal: gain your brother.

A. Begin with a direct conversation.
For ordinary interpersonal offenses, pray first, speak clearly, listen carefully, avoid assumptions, and own your part.
Ask: "Can you help me understand what happened?"

B. Slow down and watch your step.
Consider your timing, tone, assumptions, and setting. You can address the right issue in the wrong way.

C. Bring appropriate help if needed.
Choose mature, fair people who can establish facts and support accountability. Follow the appropriate leadership structure.

D. Persistent refusal requires accountability.
Restoration requires truth. Trust requires evidence of change. Reconciliation does not automatically restore leadership; boundaries may remain necessary.

Protect those who have been harmed. Abuse, threats, or coercion do not require confronting someone alone. Seek appropriate support and accountability. Responsible reporting is not gossip.

5 Restore with humility

Galatians 6:1 | Restore with gentleness while examining yourself. Confront sin humbly, protect those harmed, seek repentance and healing, and remember your own need for grace.

My response this week

Is pride keeping me from admitting I need to change? Is shame keeping me from believing Christ can change me? Have my words contributed to division?

What conversation, apology, report, or boundary is my next step?

Because I am a new creation, I can take a new step.