

You Can't Stay That Way

“The Principle of New”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 KJV

17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Introduction: The Spiritual Life, Lifestyle and Legacy.

We're going to do a walkthrough of Paul's second letter to the Corinthian Church.

I'm not going to fully focus on our sins as much as I am going to focus on God's standards that governs our sins.

We know what our sins are We are a fallen people, called to a new resurrected life in Christ. The biblical text given, is where I want us to land and end. In order to really make the landing strong and effective in a more impactful way, truth and transparency must eclipse the process of true transformation. Transformation is a word that you will hear me say a lot in this series of messages from 2 Corinthians chapter 5. So let's go back to the beginning of the text and switch to the English Standard Version, for a clear and practical language translation.

2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV

"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Temporary versus Permanent: Helping you to know what you're living with, so you can manage how you deal with it.

5:1a: We are living in an temporary structure that will ultimately decay and be destroyed.

5:1b: We have a prepared building that comes from God, not made by human hands, and does not live in an earthly but heavenly dwelling.

- **The Ministry of Transformation: Its a deep inner change that God uses the Holy Spirit to bring about in us.**

“We will never encounter the full weight of divine glory while living in and with human garbage.”

Never compromise the cleansing process. It makes room for random downloads and deposits of significant spiritual implants. As we clean out the human clutter, God gives us more of himself for himself.

- **Reconciliation- What Christ did for Us**

- **Repentance - What We Must Do For Ourselves**

It's a repeated action of continuous contrition and sorrowfulness, don't hide in prideful sin, repent until you get it right.

- **Reformation- What we are called to Become:**

There has to be an Identity Change in our Character and behavior.

Change Is Not a Request, it's a Required Standard