

The Righteousness That Transforms

God's righteousness is not just something we receive—it's something we become. In Christ, we are made new, entrusted with a mission, and called to live as His ambassadors in the world. Paul shows us that the righteousness of God transforms our identity, purpose, and message.

I. A New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- A. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"
 - 1. Paul declares that those in Christ are not simply improved—they are **entirely new**.
 - 2. The "old" (sin, guilt, alienation from God) has passed away. The "new" (life, identity, relationship) has come.
 - 3. This is both **positional** (no longer condemned) and **personal** (transformed by grace).
- B. This transformation is not reserved for the spiritually elite—"if **anyone** is in Christ..."
 - 1. Just as God once created the world out of nothing, He now **recreates people** through Christ.
 - 2. Romans 6:4 – "We too may **walk** in newness of life."

II. A New Ministry (2 Corinthians 5:18–19)

- A. "Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of **reconciliation**."
- B. God not only brings us back into relationship with Him—He gives us a **role** in His redemptive work.
 - 1. Reconciliation is not just received—it is **shared**.
 - 2. This is not limited to pulpit preachers or church leaders: every Christian has a **ministry**.
 - 3. It is about relational, Spirit-led living that draws others toward peace with God.
- C. Grace flows **to us** so that it can flow **through us** (v. 19).
 - 1. "He has **committed** the message of reconciliation to us."

III. A New Message (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- A. "We are **ambassadors** for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God.'"
 - 1. An **ambassador** carries the authority and message of the one they represent.
 - 2. Our message is not our own—it is **God's appeal**: "Be reconciled to Me."
 - 3. Paul's tone is urgent: "We plead..."—salvation is not casual or optional.
- B. Our speech and lifestyle must match our role as representatives of the King.

IV. A New Standing (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- A. "He made the one who did not know sin **to be sin** for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
 - 1. The gospel culminates in a **great exchange**: Jesus takes our sin, and we receive His righteousness.
 - 2. This is not sin infused into Jesus, but our guilt placed upon Him as our substitute.
- B. Nor does Paul teach irresistible transformation apart from faith—righteousness is **received through obedient faith** and lived out through discipleship.
- C. The result is a new standing and a new calling: to reflect God's character in daily life.
 - 1. "We ...**become** the righteousness of God."
 - 2. Titus 2:11-12 – Grace trains us to live **righteous**, godly lives now.

V. As We Close: A Life That Reflects the Righteousness of God

- A. The righteousness of God does more than save—it **transforms**.
- B. Are you living like someone who has been made new?