

# Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



## Key Takeaways:

1. Our church theme for 2025 is "A New Creation"
2. Being in Christ means we are already participating in the new creation
3. We are changed the moment we give our lives to Jesus
4. Our new identity in Christ is not dependent on our actions, but on God's work in us
5. We should focus on forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead

## Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. Pastor Ike mentioned that many Christians struggle to understand who they truly are in Christ. Have you experienced this struggle? How so?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What does it mean to you personally that "the new creation has come" and "the new is here"?
4. How might fully embracing our identity as a new creation in Christ change the way we live our daily lives?
5. The sermon highlighted two dangers: measuring holiness by experiences rather than in Jesus, and falling into despair. Have you encountered either of these in your faith journey? How can we guard against them?
6. Discuss the concept of "forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead" (Philippians 3:13-14). What might this look like practically in your life?

7. Pastor Ike suggested two resolutions for 2025: refusing to disqualify ourselves and refusing to stop striving forward. Which of these resonates with you more, and why?

#### Practical Applications:

1. **Identity Affirmation:** Each day this week, spend a few minutes meditating on 2 Corinthians 5:17 and affirming your identity as a new creation in Christ.
2. **Past Release Exercise:** Write down something from your past that you need to "forget" or release. Pray over it, then symbolically destroy the paper (tear it up, burn it safely, etc.) as an act of moving forward.
3. **Future Focus:** Set a specific, achievable spiritual goal for the next month that represents "straining towards what is ahead" in your faith journey.
4. **Accountability Partners:** Pair up with someone in the group to encourage each other in living out your identity as a new creation and pursuing growth in Christ.
5. **Group Reflection:** At your next meeting, share how embracing the "new creation" mindset has impacted your daily life and interactions with others.