**“New Creation”**

Going deeper in 2 Corinthians 5:15-6:2

**INTRODUCTION**

The Apostle Paul’s ministry in Corinth had been challenged by some and Paul has been explaining the nature of his ministry and his team. In this passage he clarifies his message and its implications for all followers of Jesus.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 15 We are convinced. One man (the Lord Jesus Christ) died for everyone. This means that everyone who lives should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again for them. 16 So from now we don’t evaluate others by what they have or how they look. We did that with the Lord Jesus and got it wrong. We certainly don’t look at Him that way anymore. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old life is gone; a new life has come! 18 All this comes from God who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. 19 This means that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting our sins against us and He has committed us to this message of reconciliation. 20 We are Christ’s envoys as though God were reaching out through us; we beg you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 God put our sin on Him, the One who had not sinned so that we could become right with God. 6:1 As God’s fellow workers we urge you to not receive God’s grace and empty it of its power. 2 For He says, “In an acceptable time I have heard you and in the day of salvation I helped you.” (Isaiah 49:8) I tell you, now is the right time, really now is the day of salvation.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think it means to “no longer live for themselves?”

2. What changed for the Apostle Paul that he would no longer evaluate Jesus from an earthly point of view (see Acts 9:1-9)?

3. What do you think is involved in the ministry of reconciliation? How is this a part of your daily life?

4. How does remembering that you are a new creation change how you live?

5. Since we have been reconciled to God through Jesus’ death and resurrection what are we supposed to do now according to these verses?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the Lord to help you see others today as He sees them.

\*Thank the Lord for His grace that has brought you into a right relationship with Him.

\*Ask the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit so you can be His envoy today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

You are a new creation because of what Jesus has done for you. He has made you His envoy of reconciliation. How will that be seen in your life this week?