



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
April 12, 2026

next week: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 part 2

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read the passage out loud together. What stands out to you? What is clear? What is confusing? What tone is Paul writing in?
2. According to verse 16, how does Paul say we should no longer view people? What does that mean in plain terms?
3. What does verse 17 say is true about someone who is “in Christ”?
4. In verses 18–19, what is God doing, and what is He giving to us?
5. What role is given to believers in verse 20?
6. How does verse 21 explain the gospel in one sentence?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

7. Now go under the surface and check for seaweed under the boat. Review the 5 mindsets offered on Sunday. Which of these hits closest right now.
8. Why is it significant that Christians no longer “regard people according to the flesh”? What are you tempted to focus on instead?
9. What does it really mean to be a “new creation”? How is that different from just “trying to be a better person”?
10. Paul says “all this is from God.” Why is that important for how we think about change in ourselves and others? How can we get this wrong?
11. Why is evangelism not just one ministry among many, but central to all ministry?
12. How does losing “first love” (Revelation 2:2–5) connect to ministry becoming complex and cluttered?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

13. What is one lie or distraction that has been “dragging behind your boat” lately? Pick one mindset that has drifted away from being distinctly Christian. Pray for God's help as you repent (change your mind).
14. Where are you still living like the “old you” instead of the “new creation”? What is one practical way you can walk in your new identity this week?
15. What good things have crowded out the most important thing in your life? Is there anything you need to say “no” to so you can say “yes” to making disciples?
16. Try praying this each morning before your feet hit the ground. “God I am yours. The old is gone, I am new. Today I live as your ambassador.” (Journal for 5 minutes at the end of each day noting what you “behold” (see)