

New Year. New Life. New You.
A New Creation
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature;
the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Review: New Year (Revelation 21:5 - *And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."*); New Life (John 10:10 - *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.* Abundant Life - Gospel, Jesus Christ, Glory of God; cf 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*)

Intro: New You (2 Corinthians 5:17; *6 Million Dollar Man*)

- I. Controlling Love (14-15)
 - Motivated from the fear of the Lord (11)
 - Intent on persuading men (11)
 - Christ's love for us is primary issue; gives us life, provides our model [*Giant Dipper*]
 - He died for us so we might have life; we live for Him who died and rose again on our behalf
- II. New Grid, New Creature, New Things (16-17)
 - We see with new eyes [*Glasses/Eye Chart*]
 - People are eternal beings
 - We see this way because we are new creatures in Christ
 - Old things have passed away, new things have come
- III. Reconciled² (18-21)
 - Things from God = Controlling Love, Purpose in Life, New Grid, New Creature
 - Reconciled = to reconcile those who are at variance; to receive one into favor
 - Ministry of Reconciliation = God in Christ reconciling; We proclaim the word of reconciliation; (emphasize "reconciliation squared")
 - Ambassadors = at pleasure of sender; into a foreign land
 - v21 = Atonement
 - See 6:1-2 for urgency of appeal (*And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain - for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation"....*)
- IV. You: A New Creation in 2015
 - Does the love of Christ control you?
 - For whom are you living?
 - How do you see people?
 - What are you proclaiming to people?
 - Abiding in Jesus Christ is the key (John 15:5 - *I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides* in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*)

* Definition of *abide*

- in reference to place
 - to sojourn, tarry
 - not to depart
 - to continue to be present
 - to be held, kept, continually
- in reference to time
 - to continue to be, not to perish, to last, endure
- in reference to state or condition
 - to remain as one, not to become another or different