

Live Like a New Creation

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 | The Victory of the Cross, Pt. 4 | Good Shepherd
Community Church | April 11-12, 2026

Big Idea: Live like a new creation – controlled by Christ’s love, regarding Him above all, and extending His reconciling love to others!

Opening

- Share about a season when you chose a major change in your life (move, life, relationship, habit, etc.). What motivated the change? What made it “worth it” for you?

Section 1 – Live like a new creation by being controlled by Christ’s Love (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

- Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Paul says, “The love of Christ controls (or compels) us.” What do you think it looks like for Christ’s love to “control” someone’s life?
- The sermon emphasized that Christ’s love doesn’t force obedience but captures the heart. What are some ways we slip into obeying God out of fear, guilt, or duty instead of love?
- Greg defined love as “gladly using your time, abilities, and resources to pursue what is best for someone.” How does the cross demonstrate that Jesus truly loves us by that definition?

Section 2 – Live like a new creation by regarding Jesus as supremely valuable (2 Corinthians 5:16-17)

- Read: 2 Corinthians 5:16-17. Paul says we no longer regard Christ “according to the flesh.” What are some ways people commonly reduce or misunderstand the worth of Jesus from a worldly perspective?
- What makes it difficult to see Jesus as worth giving up everything else?
- Would heaven still satisfy you if Christ were not there? What does your honest answer reveal about your heart?

Section 3 – Live like a new creation by regard and reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16a, 18-20)

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:16a, 18-20. Why is it important for Christians to remember both justification (already new) and sanctification (still becoming new)?
- What does being an ambassador for Christ teach us about how we treat other believers?
- Why is it tempting to ignore relational tension rather than pursue reconciliation? Is there a relationship in your life where reconciliation feels costly right now?

Section 4 – Live like a new creation by embracing the Great Exchange (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- Read: 2 Corinthians 5:21. Why is verse 21 such a foundation for everything Paul says earlier in the passage?
- How does believing the Great Exchange free us from guilt and shame as well as self-righteousness?
- How should the Great Exchange shape how we extend grace and forgiveness to others?

Next Step Takeaways:

- With God as His Family:
 - Practice daily trust in Christ's love.
 - Each day this week, intentionally remind yourself: "Jesus loves me and gave Himself for me." Ask, "If I truly believed that right now, how would I respond differently?"
 - Confess and rest in the Great Exchange.
 - When guilt or shame surfaces, verbally acknowledge your sin to God—and then thank Him that Jesus already bore it and has given you His righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21).
- With Others as His Servants:
 - Initiate one step toward reconciliation.
 - If there is a strained relationship with a brother or sister in Christ, take one concrete step—send a message, request a conversation, or offer forgiveness—trusting God with the outcome.
 - Refuse to keep a record of wrongs.
 - Ask the Lord to help you let go of bitterness or resentment, just as God does not count your sins against you (2 Cor. 5:19).
- On Mission as His Missionaries:
 - Embrace your identity as an ambassador.
 - Wherever God has placed you—home, sports, work, school, neighborhood—remind yourself: "God is making His appeal through me." Begin the day by praying, "Lord, who do You want me to represent You to today?"
 - Demonstrate the gospel through reconciling love.
 - Let your words and actions align: extend grace, pursue peace, and love sacrificially so others can see the reconciling power of the gospel.