

**“Behold, All Things Are Become New”****Lesson Scope:** 2 Corinthians 5:17 through 7: 16*References in brackets relate to Lesson Scope unless noted otherwise***Lesson Focus**

The believer rejoices and finds great consolation in his hope of eternal reward, as studied in last week’s lesson. The seeker finds ample incentive for becoming a new creature in Christ. However, to receive this reward, each one must be found faithful when Christ returns.

The sinless Son of God gave Himself as a sin offering for fallen man, providing the way of reconciliation. Those who are reconciled become new creatures in Christ. The new life of the new creature is a life of serving the One who died for him. Also, those who are new creatures in Christ are ambassadors for Him, declaring the message of salvation so that others might also be reconciled to God.

The evil of society today is similar to the evil of Corinth and militates against the new life in Christ. The fallen nature of man presses to have its way. However, as the directives for salvation, separation, and sanctification that are outlined in this lesson are followed, the new life in Christ becomes possible.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, a man can become “a new creature.” Man’s reconciliation to God results in a life of holiness and godly zeal.

This lesson gives a sweeping view of salvation and reconciliation through Christ’s work on the cross. It then moves on to directives for maintaining separated, holy living and restoring the repentant sinners. Especially in the “Separated” and “Sanctified” sections, this lesson can be made very practical. When application of these principles is weak, the result is world-ward drift in the church.

The true Anabaptist lifestyle is a needed application of the command to come out from the world and be separate. The plain churches are constantly challenged on these points. This is the frontline battle of maintaining the faith.

**Lesson Aim:** To inspire us to exemplify the new life in Christ.

**Theme Verses:** [2 Corinthians 6:17-18](#). Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

## Lesson Text

### Reconciled

#### [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#)

<sup>17</sup> (KJV) Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. <sup>18</sup> And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

#### [2 Corinthians 6:1-4](#)

<sup>1</sup> (KJV) We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.) <sup>3</sup> Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: <sup>4</sup> But in all *things* approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

### Separated

#### [2 Corinthians 6:14-18](#)

<sup>14</sup> (KJV) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? <sup>15</sup> And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>17</sup> Wherefore

come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, <sup>18</sup> And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

## Sanctified

### 2 Corinthians 7:1-5

<sup>1</sup> (KJV) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. <sup>2</sup> Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man. <sup>3</sup> I speak not *this* to condemn *you*: for I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with *you*. <sup>4</sup> Great *is* my boldness of speech toward you, great *is* my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation. <sup>5</sup> For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without *were* fightings, within *were* fears.

### 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

<sup>8</sup> (KJV) For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season. <sup>9</sup> Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. <sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. <sup>11</sup> For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

## Questions for Study

### Reconciled

1. What are a few of the “old things” that are passed away, and what are a few of the “all things” that are “become new” for the new creature in Christ?
2. What are the contents of the message of reconciliation that the new creature is proclaiming?
3. How can the new creature in Christ keep himself blameless?

## **Separated**

4. Why is a union between a believer and an unbeliever an unequal yoke?
5. What dangers to the Christian come through an unequal yoke?
6. What unequal yokes threaten us?

## **Sanctified**

7. How do the promises of God inspire us to holiness?
8. What are marks of true godly sorrow?
9. How do we maintain zeal and inspiration in our Christian lives?

## **Analysing the Passage**

The numerous forms of the word reconcile in 5:18-20 mean “to change, exchange.” When man is reconciled to God, the relationship is changed from enmity to friendship. This word describes the tremendous opportunity of restoration to divine favour.

Christ was “made . . . to be sin for us” (5:21), not in that He became sinful, but in that He bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24) when He became the offering for our sins. “That we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (5:21). The believer “becomes in Christ all that God requires a man to be, all that he could never be in himself” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary).

\_ To “receive . . . the grace of God in vain” (6:1) is to fall short of receiving salvation because of rejecting the message or failing to live according to the call to holy living (Hebrews 4: 1-2).

Paul “did repent” (7:8) in that it grieved him to write a severe letter of correction. He did “not repent” in that he was not sorry he had written it, because it brought them to repentance.

## **Principles and Applications**

### **Reconciled**

1. To be a true Christian reconciled unto Christ, one must be made a new creature through the new birth (5:17). A true Christian is not just a good moral man dressed with numerous commendable character traits. One must come to Christ through faith, repent, and be born again. The new birth begins a new life of serving a new Master. The new creature has a new nature that is toward God because it has the implanted nature of God.

2. Justification through Christ brings reconciliation with God (5:20-21). “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Sin and the Fall caused a gulf of separation and enmity between a holy, sinless God and fallen, sinful man. Only justification of man could bring reconciliation with God. The death of Christ, who was sinless, provided the sin offering so that man can be justified and reconciled with God.

3. New creatures in Christ are ambassadors for Him (5:20). Before Christ left this world, He entrusted the message of the Gospel to His disciples, making them ambassadors for Him to the world (Matthew 28:19-20). We are Christ’s messengers to the masses of lost humanity whom Christ loves and desires to bring to Himself. If we fail to carry His message, who will? If we fail to be ambassadors, how will the world hear the wonderful message of reconciliation to God?

4. By the grace of God, the new creature lives blamelessly and without offense (6: 3-4). Doing or saying things in a rash, careless, or inconsistent way leads to offenses that could be a stumbling block to others in their Christian lives. Blameless living includes sobriety, temperance, restrained speech, discretion, chastity, and loving home relationships (Titus 2: 1-5).

A little misrepresentation in a business deal, a little inaccuracy in our speech, a little partiality, a little false accusation of our brother, or a little ignoring of the church rules can cause great spiritual loss.

### **Separated**

5. New creatures in Christ may not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (6:14-16). People of differing faiths have different goals and guiding principles and so are not compatible to be in a yoke together. To enter into a partnership with an unbeliever could bring much pressure to compromise on Scriptural principles. The unbelieving partner may desire to support a charity we do not agree with, or they could decide to sue to collect money. We must beware of close relationships with the world and with nominal Christians. An unequal yoke may develop even if a formal agreement is absent.

6. Being a new creature in Christ requires separation from the ungodly to be received into God’s family (6:7-18). The uncleanness of the world will defile us if we dabble in it, so we must not so much as touch the world’s filth. We must not accept worldly and lustful things that have

been adapted to make them more easily accepted by the Christian. Godly people will reject literature that describes in detail pre-conversion wickedness, sensational mission accounts without discipleship, and Plain People romance novels. We will not take part in community social events such as fundraising socials.

### **Sanctified**

7. Regeneration produces outer and inner holiness (7:1). Christ is the perfect example for us to follow of a pure heart and a sinless life. What we take in with our senses can defile our thoughts. What we think on can defile our hearts. What is in our hearts can defile our lives with sinful, fleshly actions. We must focus on what is decent, and quickly move our eyes and thoughts away from that which is indecent. We will move away from a conversation that includes dirty jokes or talk that is suggestive of unholy actions. Pride, jealousy, envy, ingratitude, and self-will must be purged from our minds.

8. Those who have the new life in Christ can be joyful in spite of trouble and tribulation (7:4-5). The joy of serving God, of victories won, and of others coming to Christ supersedes the things that could discourage. A farmer endures drought, heat, wind, and cold, and with joyful patience awaits the anticipated harvest. So God's servants sweat, toil, and persevere with the joy of raising a harvest of great eternal value for the Lord.

9. The new life in Christ is a life of repentance unto salvation (7:9-10). The joy of salvation comes through a godly sorrow that works repentance in our lives. We are not perfect, and so we have shortcomings and failures. We must keep our Christian life current through a godly sorrow for our shortcomings and failures and by making our wrongs right as we go along. None are above the need for a godly sorrow, nor is any man too important to sincerely say, "I am sorry." Through a sincere repentance we can find ourselves "clear in this matter" (7:11) and ready to move on in godly joy.

10. Those who are truly regenerated press into the kingdom (7:11). The new creature in Christ has a mission to fill. The joy of salvation brings a zeal to guard that joy by being faithful in the Christian life. He is determined to overcome and to not stumble along the way, but to remain faithful to God and His Word.

## **Important Teachings**

1. To be a true Christian reconciled unto Christ, one must be made a new creature through the new birth (5:17).
2. Justification through Christ brings reconciliation with God (5:20-21).
3. New creatures in Christ are ambassadors for Him (5:20).
4. By the grace of God, the new creature lives blamelessly and without offense (6:1-4).
5. New creatures in Christ may not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (6:14-16).
6. Being a new creature in Christ requires separation from the ungodly to be received into God's family (6:17-18).
7. Regeneration produces outer and inner holiness (7:1).
8. Those who have the new life in Christ can be joyful in spite of trouble and tribulation (7:4-5).
9. The new life in Christ is a life of repentance unto salvation (7:9-10).
10. Those who are truly regenerated press into the kingdom (7:11).

## **Answers to Questions**

1. What are a few of the "old things" that are passed away, and what are a few of the "all things" that are "become new" for the new creature in Christ?

The old life of serving self, the fallen nature, and Satan is passed away. The fallen condition is passed away. The enmity with God is passed away. Selfish living and hypocrisy are passed away.

A few of the "all things" that are "become new" are a new life of serving Christ and crucifying self and the flesh, a holy life that is above reproach, close communion with God, and the new nature within us.

2. What are the contents of the message of reconciliation that the new creature is proclaiming?

The message of reconciliation is the message of the good news of salvation. Christ, who is God, came to earth as a man, lived a sinless life, and died on the cross to provide a sin offering for man. Christ's work makes forgiveness for man's sin possible so that he can be reconciled to God. By God's power, the Christian must go on living a life that is holy and acceptable before God in order to maintain that standing.

3. How can the new creature in Christ keep himself blameless?

We cannot do it in our own strength; we need the Lord's help. We need to be careful in the things we do and say. Being rash, careless, or inconsistent can lead to offenses and blame. We must put away all selfish thoughts and actions. We need to pattern our life after Christ, our perfect example. We must be careful to live according to our calling as an ambassador for Christ. We need to take the time and effort to nurture good, open relationships with others. Blameless living includes sobriety, temperance, restrained speech, discretion, chastity, and loving home relationships (Titus 2:1-5).

4. Why is a union between a believer and an unbeliever an unequal yoke?

The believer and the unbeliever have differing faiths and differing goals. They have differing guiding principles that they are using to make decisions. It is unequal to join one who is following light with one who is following darkness.

5. What dangers to the Christian come through an unequal yoke?

There is the danger of being influenced by the unbeliever through the close and regular relationship. There is danger of compromising on Biblical principles to keep the relationship amiable. There is the danger of departing from the plain lifestyle in order to be more like the other partner. There may be pressure to use the law to resolve issues. There may be pressure to become involved in the social life of the other. Unequal yokes often draw people away from the family of God, from fellow believers, and from those who have chosen similar applications of the Scriptures.

6. What unequal yokes threaten us?

The unequal yoke of joining with others of various faiths for relief work and mission work. The unequal yoke of a business partnership with those who differ in the practical applications of Bible principles. The unequal yoke of sharing pulpits with those who have drifted from the plain lifestyle.

7. How do the promises of God inspire us to holiness?

These promises should be ample incentive for being faithful to our calling. The realization that holy living is necessary to be called a son or daughter of God should lead us to determine to live in holiness to claim the promise of God as our Father. The promise that God will receive us should inspire us to come out and be separate.

8. What are marks of true godly sorrow?

When the sorrow is that which brings one to repentance, it is godly sorrow. Godly sorrow leads one to be willing to make things right with others and say he is sorry. Godly sorrow leads one to put away the sin or shortcoming and determine to go on with Christ in victory. When sorrow is godly, others, especially the church leaders, can plainly see that one has truly repented and is clear of the matter.

9. How do we maintain zeal and inspiration in our Christian lives?

We need to keep the price Christ paid for us fresh in our minds.

We need to remember that fallen state we were saved from and the joy of that salvation. We must not allow the things of our earthly life to overtake our spiritual goals. We must maintain a burden for the lost by frequently witnessing to them. We must keep our relationship with God current, and have a godly sorrow and repentance for our failures.

We must keep ourselves clear in all matters.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

Being in Christ makes us new creatures. Being reconciled to God gives us a new relationship with the Father and a new commission as ambassadors for Christ. Being separate from the world identifies us with a new family. Being holy in body and spirit means we are living by a new standard. Being repentant for our past sins and our failings clears the past and gives us a new hope for the future. “Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

### **Research Guide**

1. Research the practices of yoking animals together to do work. See Deuteronomy 22:10.

2. Research the meaning of the words used to describe the response of the Corinthians in 7:11 (sorrowed, carefulness, clearing, indignation, fear, vehement desire, zeal, and revenge).