



5:17

PEOPLE WEEK





2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!"*

WELCOME!

When you are invited to someone's home, you know that the relationship has reached a new milestone. They are inviting you to see their good, their bad, their ugly—their whole life under one roof. They are inviting you into the space where only family is usually present—and it should make you feel special when someone invites you into that space.

With this guide to **5:17 PEOPLE WEEK**, you'll discover it's about *Uniting Church and Home* working with your church to see this often-ignored teaching of our Union with Christ put into life-changing practice in your church and home. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, if you are in Christ, there's a new creation happening! But how is that "in Christ" and that "new creation" worked out in our lives?

The goal of this devotional is to give you and yours the vocabulary, the ideas, the foundational Scriptures, to begin this journey of living out our union with Jesus Christ. With your church and family providing both the encouragement (and often challenges) to put this into action, by the time you complete this week-long course, you'll have a new vision for how your home, your church, and your heart can be impacted by a fresh look at your identity and your union with Christ.

All references are from the ESV Bible.

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DAY ONE: I AM A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST

[Watch the video introducing today's devotion by clicking here.](#) Password is 517NC.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away. Behold the new has come.
– 2 Corinthians 5:17

In the world we live in, wouldn't it be easier if everything were new, and we could replace all our old, broken things? This instinct isn't all wrong—because I am in Christ, I am, right now, a NEW person (even though I fail!) AND God is making me more like the new person I already am in how I think, speak, and live.

What do you think of when you hear the word, dishwasher? If you are a child, you're thinking of the boring job of loading or unloading it. If you are a mom, you are thinking, "I can't live without it!" If you are a husband, it's fearing the decision to fix it or replace it when it breaks down. As a husband, I was faced with this dilemma.

No appliance fails at a convenient time and dishwashers are no exception, especially when you have many people living in your home. Think about that for a minute. In my home, we have ten people eating three meals a day which means at least 30 of everything needing to be cleaned each day. Well, our dishwasher stopped working on a Friday afternoon. Money doesn't grow on trees, so I was determined to fix it myself. I knew exactly what to do... I logged onto YouTube. Looks easy enough, I thought. So, I turned off the power to the dishwasher, pulled it out from the wall and my adventure began. I determined which part I needed and headed to the nearest appliance repair shop—30 minutes away. It was late Friday afternoon and I raced to make it there in the nick of time, paid for the part, returned home, installed it and guess what? It didn't make a hill of beans difference. It—still—didn't—run!

I went back to YouTube for another video. Ah ha! I figured it out. It's a different part. But the repair shop was not open on the weekend. The kids registered their displeasure at having to wash 60 place settings over the weekend. Monday came and work would have to wait. I made my second trip to the repair store. The part they had was not what I needed and they had to order the right part from the manufacturer. This meant another three days of waiting and another trip across town... on Wednesday. I was at the door when they opened Wednesday morning! Purchased the second-most expensive part for the dishwasher (the motor), raced home, installed it, plugged the machine in and... it worked for a few days and then broke again! I was so defeated.

After three trips to an appliance repair store (across town!), two missed days of work and \$250 poorer. And I was no better off for my efforts. To add insult to injury, I learned I could not return

parts that I had installed. It was time to declare the dishwasher dead (albeit with \$250 of new parts in it). I ended up where I should have started--over at Lowe's where I bought a brand new one.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could fix ourselves? Or, each other?! We try this and do that and while we might actually have a little success, it is not long before we are right back where we started from—or worse.

God knew we were incapable of fixing ourselves. He doesn't want us trying the impossible; depending on old ingenuity to fix things piece-meal. He leaves nothing to chance. He has already made us new creations in Christ. This is at once a reality about who we are now and also an ideal that we are seeking to become more like in how we think, speak, and act.

Discussion

- For one day, you can become any animal you want. What animal would you choose? After that day, if you could keep one attribute from that animal, what would you keep?
- In today's verse, it says that the "old" has passed away. Let's combine that idea with Galatians 5:19-21, which says in vs. 20 that people love to worship things rather than God (idolatry). What is a thing in your culture that people worship in your culture instead of God? What about at church—what is something that among Christians is often adored more than God?
- Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Can you find at least five new gifts God has given all believers? How do these gifts from him change your perception of yourself?
- Let's read Ephesians 2:1-10. What is the main new thing that we find in these verses that God uses to help us to trust him more? How does that new thing change us?

Scripture memory (it may help to say this out loud a few times as a family):

2 Corinthians 5:17. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for loving our family. Thank you for making us new creations in Jesus. Please forgive us for the many times we live like we are not new creations you have made us, but old, broken down people. Help us to remember that we are new creations so that we can know your love and joyfully obey you. In Jesus name, Amen.

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