



# 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.

English Standard Version® (ESV®) Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.  
All rights reserved. ESV Text Edition: 2016



# 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!

---

### A Leader's Prayer

Day 7—you made it! Praise God for being faithful and getting you guys to the last day of this amazing week. You've been his representative, his ambassador, leading this group through this study. Thank you. Now thank God for what you've learned so far and ask him that when this week is over, his Spirit will be taking these truths deeper and deeper into your soul and the souls of those you've led this week.

## **DAY SEVEN: I AM AN AMBASSADOR**

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

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.  
We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.  
-2 Corinthians 5:20*

Knowing who we are in Christ isn't just about improving ourselves. That would be selfish if we stop there. **The joy we receive from focusing on our identity should lead us to reach out to others in our homes, churches, and neighborhoods. I have redemptive purpose for the kingdom of God.**

How old are you? 10? 14? What would be a high accomplishment for a 10-14 year old today? Maybe getting 100,000 likes on Instagram? Or, a guest appearance on a famous Youtube show like *Dude Perfect*? Well, imagine being an ambassador for the United States. An ambassador is a person who is selected to represent his country's interests in another country. It is a highly honored and respected position in government.

John Quincy Adams (the sixth president of the United States) started his political career at the ripe old age of 10! He went with his father to France to help negotiate funding for the American War of Independence. And then, at age 14, he went with Diplomat Francis Dana to Russia where he assisted Dana and served as translator. At the time, young Adams knew Italian, French, English, Russian, Latin, and German. Imagine if your president asked you to serve as an ambassador of your country to a foreign country? How would you feel?

Consider this: God, The Creator, sovereign supreme ruler of history and Heaven, has made you an ambassador of his eternal kingdom. If you are in Christ, then you are, automatically, one of his ambassadors. Think about that for a moment! God has specifically selected you to represent him to other people beginning with people in your family, your church, school, friends and people who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord. This is a high honor, but we don't treat it as one. We treat it as a nuisance! It's easy to become so focused on God helping us fix our own problems that we forget that God has given us this much larger purpose: helping others get connected to the Vine, Jesus.

God wants us to share the gospel message with others, but it's not just data. This begins with helping people grow to be more like Jesus and wanting to identify with him more and more. This is what both believers and unbelievers need, giving hope for eternity and spiritual maturity, all in one life-changing message.

Our verse for today comes from 2 Corinthians 5:20 - *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

## Discussion

- Who are some people you trust to tell the truth? Why do you trust them?
- So far this week, you've heard about our Christian faith being measured by how deeply we find our identity in Jesus Christ. As we become more like him, we become his representative in all we do and say. As you read 2 Cor. 5:19-20, Paul calls that change becoming an "ambassador." What is the message of an ambassador?
- "Reconciliation" is a big word that means to make peace between two people. Who needs reconciliation? Is it just people who do not know Jesus Christ?
- Read Heb. 3:13. This passage speaks of a particular responsibility we have. What is it and when are we to do it?
- List 3 people in your life who are already Christians but who need the encouragement discussed from Heb. 3:13? Remember to pray for them!
- List at least 3 specific unbelievers in your life (neighbors, co-workers, friends) who need the hope and joy of Christ. Remember to pray for them!
- Read John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 4:15-16. Why does God want each of us to fully participate in ministering to one another?
- What differences do you think it makes in how we do our ambassadorial work when we do it out of an understanding of our identity in Christ (versus duty)?

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

2 Corinthians 5:20 - *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father. Thank you for uniting me to yourself and making me one of your ambassadors. We were once your enemies but now we are your beloved children and your representatives to other people. Thank you for giving us such a high calling. Please help us to take the opportunities to minister to others by offering a word of encouragement, patiently

helping them as they wrestle with life, or to present the hope we have in Jesus. Help us to have the heart of Jesus toward others. We pray these things in Jesus name, Amen.

## Activities

Coloring page for ages 2-10.

Fill in the blanks for ages 11+.

You may want to give these to your children while you go through the devotion. Or, you may find it more effective to give to them afterward as a review. Use however you deem best!

helping them as they wrestle with life, or to present the hope we have in Jesus. Help us to have the heart of Jesus toward others. We pray these things in Jesus name, Amen.

## Activities

Coloring page for ages 2-10.

Fill in the blanks for ages 11+.

You may want to give these to your children while you go through the devotion. Or, you may find it more effective to give to them afterward as a review. Use however you deem best!

if you were blessed by this devotional, please donate.  
<https://uchlink.com/donate/>