



Truth in the Neighborhood

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Listen! “It’s a wonderful day in the neighborhood!”

- **The problem:** To tell you the truth most Christians are not very good neighbors.

New Identities: The key identity of our lives is no longer found in our occupation or gender or financial status—now it is found in our relationship with Christ. (vv 16, 17)

- “In the flesh” was our old identity:
- “In Christ” is our new identity:
- The new identity process:
 - Sin and alienation from God:
 - Christ Who knew no sin became sin on our behalf (substitution):
 - We must put our trust in Christ:
 - We are reconciled to God:
 - Our trespasses are not counted against us:
 - The righteousness of God is given to us as a gift:
- New creatures:

New Duties: We are now ambassadors who appeal to others for reconciliation with God. (vv 18-21)

- The ministry of reconciliation:
- The word of reconciliation:
- Ambassadors:
- God making an appeal through us:
- We beg:
- We do not beg you, the Corinthian believers, because “you” is not in the Greek text:
- We beg any un-reconciled person:

New Realities: The nations have moved into our neighborhoods.

New Actions: We must each take the Next Step in becoming World Christians.

- Faith Comes By Hearing Gift
- Faith Promise Commitment: extra cards in the Commons.
- Next Step Cards: extra cards in the Commons.
 - Junior High Response—students taking the Next Step.
 - NVision Seminar: details on the back.
 - International Students: resources on the back.

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ and pursuing God through obedience, reflective living, and community.

New Duties: We are now ambassadors who appeal to others for reconciliation with God.

Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** Have you placed your trust in Christ and been reconciled to God? (See the "new identity process" on the front of this outline.) If not is there anything keeping you from trusting Christ right now? Right now you could express your trust in Christ:

Dear Father, I now understand that I am alienated from you by sin and that I cannot fix this myself. I now know that Jesus became sin for me and died on the cross to pay for my sin. Right now I put all my hope and trust for forgiveness and eternal life in Jesus and the sacrifice He made for me on the cross. Right now I ask for and accept Your forgiveness and eternal life and new identity as a new creature in Christ. Thank you! In Jesus' name, Amen.

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ today please call the CBC office this week and ask for someone to help you get started in your relationship with God. 281-469-6063.

- **Monday:** Will you register today for the NVision seminar and take the next step in being a World Christian from your own zip code?
- **Tuesday:** What are the "in the flesh" identities that you have relied on for self worth?
- **Wednesday:** In what specific ways have the nations moved into your neighborhood?
- **Thursday:** What should the "ministry of reconciliation" look like in your life?
- **Friday:** What will you do this week to further your duties as Christ's ambassador?
- **Saturday:** Would you be willing to partner with someone to help each other along in growing as World Christians?

Key Resources and Opportunities. Here are some great ways to take the next step:

- Make a Faith Promise Commitment to support CBC missionaries: cards in commons.
- NVision seminar: February 29 and March 1. 6 hours. Register at www.cypressbible.org.
- Mission Cy Fair United Outreach in our own zip codes: www.missioncyfair.org
- Excellent book: *Cross-Cultural Servanthood* by Duane Elmer.
- Excellent book: *Ministering Cross-Culturally* by Sherwood G. Lingenfelter.
- Excellent book: *Reaching the World in our own Backyard* by Rajendra Pillai
- Adopting an international student: www.isionline.org
- CBC's Houston International Student Ministry: Contact Janet Giesen at janetgiesen@compuserve.com
- Perspectives Course on becoming a world Christian: www.perspectives.org
- Give an offering to put the Bible on CD for a tribal Muslim group in Afghanistan. Make your check out to Cypress Bible Church and mark it for "Faith Comes by Hearing."