

REKINDLED: IT'S A NEW CREATION DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

2 Corinthians 5:16-18 ESV

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

The Four Pillars of the Early Church:

- Built on a SUPERNATURAL EXPECTANCY: God, what are you going to do today?
- Built on AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY: Instant family.
- Built on PRAYER AND FASTING: Birthed, built, and emboldened in a prayer meeting.
- Built on the PURE GOSPEL: It's so much more!

Opening Discussion: It's a New Creation

- What does it mean to you as an individual to become a new creation? In what ways is the church (the body) a new creation?
- What are some things in your old life that have "passed away?" In what ways do you live, or fail to live as the new creation you have become?

Read Acts 15:5-21 ESV: Rekindling David's Tent

¹⁶“After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen;
I will rebuild its ruins,
and I will restore it,
¹⁷that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name,
say the Lord, who makes these things ¹⁸known from of old.”

Key Thought: This new thing is not just YOU but US....WE (the church) are a new creation (the body).

- This new thing was God's Plan that offered us Proximity to His Presence.

1) This Place was God's Plan (verse 16).

- Read 2 Samuel 6:17-19. What do you glean from this passage about David and the tent he built for the ark of the Lord? Who would have normally erected the tent that held the ark of God? Who would have normally offered the offerings and blessed the people?
- David stood in the place of both king and priest.
- Moses' tabernacle was located in Gibeon and David's tent was located in Jerusalem. They both operated at the same time. What was a primary difference between the two places that housed the Presence of God?
- Moses' tabernacle represented ritual, David's tent represented relationship.
- Principle: The religious wanted the church to go back to the old and the apostles realized that Christ was building something new, a church founded on relationship and grace.

2) This Place was about Proximity (verse 17).

- Read Hebrews 7:18-19. The veil was not present in David's tent so that His people could draw near to God.
- Tabernacle of Moses
Built on Law
Mt. Sinai
Separated by Veil
No Access to the Holy Place
Daily Sacrifice
Never Finished
- Tabernacle of David
Built on Grace
Mt. Zion
No Veil
Full Access to the Holy Place
One Perfect Sacrifice
It is Finished
- Read Hebrews 4:16. How does this verse tie in to the comparison of the tabernacle of Moses and the tabernacle of David? What does this mean to you personally? What does it mean for the Church corporately?
- Principle: God desires close proximity to His children, always drawing them near to Himself.

3) This Place was about Presence

- Read 2 Samuel 6:12-15. How does this reveal that David may have been jealous of the blessing and proximity of the Presence on Obed Edom's home? What action did David take? How did he respond when the ark arrived in Jerusalem? How does this speak to you?
- Read 2 Chronicles 8:11. Why do you think Solomon declared that his wife, the daughter of Pharaoh, would not be allowed to live in the house of David? How could this same principle be applied to your own life, family, home, and/or church?
- Principle: The new creation includes the individual, the family, and the church as a dwelling place for God.
- Read Ephesians 2:13-22. How does this passage confirm what the Lord is building on the foundations of the early church?

Application:

- Through Christ, God has created this new thing—a temple where His Presence can dwell:
 - 1) in each individual believer, for our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).
 - 2) in the Church, a place to meet and gather together to host His Presence, for the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:10-17).
- If you make a place for Him, He comes.
- If you make room for Him, He comes.
- God's glory fully fills—our hearts, our homes, and the Church.
- May we hose the Presence of the Lord.