

Who am I in Christ? #7: Righteous  
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

**Objectives:** Begin to understand who we are “in Christ”. Understand the importance of seeing ourselves as God sees us. Start to replace lies we believe about ourselves with God’s truth about us.

**Launch** Use your own words... (5 minutes)  
**What are negative labels that are placed on people? How do these labels affect people? How does the impact of the label change based on who is speaking? For example: Will it affect me more to be called “weak” by my dad or by a random guy at Meijer? Why?**

**Intro to the series-** For the last 6 weeks we sought to answer the question- Who is Jesus?

For the next 5 weeks we are going to look at who God says we are. The Bible lists over 40 things that are true of us once we place our faith in Christ. If you are a Christian this is your who you are. No matter what you feel or what you have done these 40 things define you. If you are not a Christian it is important to understand how the Bible describes a Christ follower because the way society/media portrays Believers is not always accurate.

### Explore

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

- **How would you put verse 16 in your own words?** (*that we should not evaluate anyone from a human point of view. Instead we should view them the way Jesus does*)
- **What does it mean for a person to be “in Christ”?** “In Christ” is the most common way the Bible describes a person who follows Jesus Christ. To be in Christ does not mean we are in him like clothes are in a closet. It does mean we are organically united to him like branches are united to a tree. It means we are in union with Christ. It means that when God views us, he sees Jesus...
- **List out the words used to describe a person who is “in Christ?”** (a new creation, reconciled, ambassador, the righteousness of God).

- **How would you define each of these terms?**
  - *reconcile-* to change from enemy to friend
  - *new creation-* God has made us a new spiritual being defined by Him and not by the world
  - *ambassador-* One who represents and communicates the will of God to others
  - *righteousness of God-* God declares that Christ followers are righteous. Seen as “right” or without sin in God’s eyes.
- **Repetition is a way to emphasize a word or idea. Are there any words that you see repeated?**
- **Why do you think that word is repeated?** (*being reconciled is the way you get in Christ or the way you become a new creation.*)
- **How is a person reconciled to God?**
- **God uses 4 different words to describe a Christ follower in this short passage. Why do you think God wants his followers to know that they are reconciled, a new creation, an ambassador and his righteousness?**
- **How would our life be different if we believed these things were true of us?**
- **This passage describes us as a new creation. If that is true, then why don’t we feel or act new? Or if we are the “righteousness of God”, why don’t we feel or act righteous?**

**Explain position/condition. Use diagram...**

### Apply

- **How do we practically live out our position in Christ? In other words, this**

**passage says you are righteous, so how do we begin to live out this truth when we struggle to live rightly?** (it starts with renewing our mind. We need to think more about who God say's we are. We need to speak this truth to one another, etc...)

- **Pick one of the 4 words that describe our position to think and pray about this week. Share these in small group.**
- **What are other verses that can help us learn more about these 4 words?**

#### **Prayer**

- **Pray that we would believe the identity God gives us in Christ.**
- **Pray that we would not believe lies from the enemy, the world, or our ourselves.**
- **Pray that we would be ambassadors for Christ who love the people around us and point them to Christ.**

#### **Announce**

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