

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

INTRODUCTION:

A. The Great Exchange is a Biblical Doctrine

It describes how Christ took mankind's sin and death upon Himself at the Cross, in exchange for imparting His own righteousness and eternal life to Believers through faith.

- **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).**

“God made His own Son to be sin that He might make the sinner a saint” – Oswald Chambers

- **“⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa 53:4-5).**

Christ the Messiah died for our sins – actually bearing the punishment that we deserved. He bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, wounded (pierced) for our transgressions and bruised (crushed) for our iniquities.

- **“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Pet 3:18).**

Christ suffered once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.

- B. “God tells us about the greatest exchange in all of history – an exchange that has taken place between Him and us, His people. It’s an exchange that makes it possible for us to live and die in hope, knowing that we will live in glory forever.” – Pastor Donn Woolweber**

I. THE CONSTRAINING LOVE (vv. 14-15)

- Constraining means to compel, to hold together, to stir

A. Christ’s Love Constrains (14a)

Christ’s love for us is what drove Him to the Cross to die for us. His love should hold and stir us into action for Him.

B. Christ Died that All Men Might Die in Him (v. 14b)

Christ died for all, then all died in Him – which means dead to the old sinful life. “ALL” means all who are redeemed by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor 15:3-4).

C. Living for God

Believers no longer live for themselves, but for Christ the resurrected Savior.

- “¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's” (1 Cor 6:19-20).
- “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20).
- 1. The old sinful life and identity have been put to death with Christ. When a person believes that Christ died for Him, God takes that person’s faith and counts it as his death in Christ.
- 2. The Believer is no longer in control of his life, Christ is now the source and center of his being.

II. THE NEW CREATION (vv. 16-17)

A. “Old Things are Passed Away” (v. 17a)

The Believer becomes a new creature by being “**In Christ**” which means to truly believe in Christ and all that He is: Savior, Mediator, Best Friend, Teacher, Redeemer, Provider, Protector, Comforter, etc.

B. “Behold, All Things are Become New (v. 17a)

The Believer is a new creation in Christ, with a new identity and new life.

1. According to 1 John 3:1, 2 and John 1:12 – Believers are called the “Sons of God”
2. According to Gal 3:26 – Believers are referred to as “children of God.”

C. Rooted in Christ

Our new identity is defined by God’s love, not worldly standards.

D. Godly Standards vs. Worldly Standards

Godly standards are eternal, absolute, and centered on God's perfect will, focusing on selfless love, righteousness, and spiritual values, while worldly standards are temporal, subjective, often changing with culture, and rooted in human opinion, selfishness, and material gain. The key difference is the source of authority: God vs. human opinion, leading to contrasting values on success, relationships, morality, and purpose.

III. THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION (vv. 18-21)

“**Reconciliation**” means restoring friendship or union after disagreement, especially between God and humanity, by changing enmity into fellowship through Christ’s atoning work, bringing peace and making people “at one” with God.” – KJV Dictionary

A. God's Initiative (v. 19)

- "To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Cor 5:19).

God Himself reconciled us to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ.

B. The Great Exchange in Detail (20-21)

1. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us"

Christ, who was sinless, was made to be sin for us. Christ is the sinless Savior!

- "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb 4:15).

2. Our Sin for His Righteousness

CHRIST TOOK OUR SIN - HE GAVE US HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!

C. Our Role as Ambassadors (v. 20)

"**Ambassador**" means an authorized representative of a ruler, acting as a messenger.

1. Christians are "**Ambassadors for Christ**" which means we are sent forth by Christ to proclaim His message of Good News – **Jesus Saves!**
2. We are to plead to the world – "**Be Ye Reconciled To God.**"

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How does understanding the concept of Jesus becoming sin for us change your perspective on sin and grace?
2. In what ways can you live out the righteousness of God in your daily life, knowing it is a gift through Christ?
3. How does the idea of the "Great Exchange" influence your relationship with God and others?
4. What are some practical steps you can take to grow in faith, recognizing that righteousness comes through faith in Christ?
5. How can the truth of Jesus' sinlessness and His sacrifice on the cross inspire you to pursue holiness in your own life?

MEMORY VERSE:

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20).

CONCLUSION:

A. Praise God for your Identity as a Righteous, Reconciled, and New Creature in Christ Jesus.

B. Allow the Love of Christ to Compel you to Live for Him!

C. Participate actively in God's mission by sharing the Message of Reconciliation – Jesus Saves!

D. James Smith: Summary of The Great Exchange

Christ takes our sins—that we might take his righteousness!

He suffers—that we might go free.

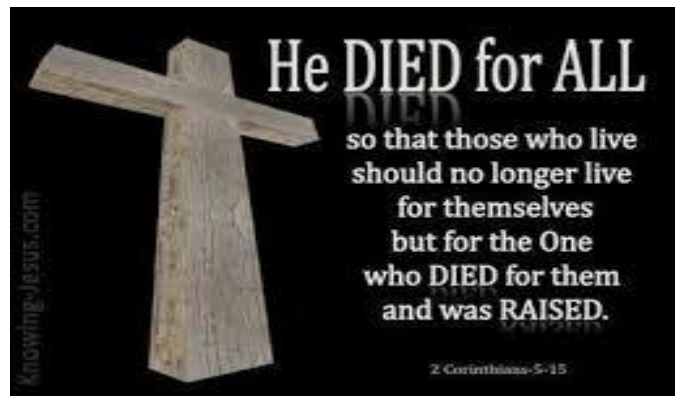
He is stripped—that we may be clothed.

He is put to death—that we might live.

He is made sin—that we might be made righteous.

E. ABC's of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:
Pastor Carl Bennett
Corinth Christian Fellowship
December 8, 2026

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).