"New Creation People"

2 Corinthians 5:14-19

STRENGTH for the Journey with Joe Stowell
Part of the RBC family of Ministries

Group Study Introduction

Use the following questions and exercises as your group time allows. Feel free to skip one or more questions in each section as necessary. If you have less then thirty minutes for group discussion, we recommend skipping the "Getting Started" section. Be sure to save time for prayer at the end of your meeting, using the "Strength through Prayer" section.

Getting Started:

Joe Stowell shares about the time when he was visiting friends in Memphis and accidentally broke the hosts' valuable alabaster banana.

- Can you recall a similar mishap?
- If you were the guilty party, were you tempted to ignore or cover up the disaster (if that was an option)?

Strength through Scripture:

Open your Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5 and have a volunteer read verse 17 out loud.

1. What does Joe mean by saying that we live in a humpty-dumpty world that God doesn't want to fix?

2. What is the significance of the fact that the Greek word Paul used in 2 Corinthians 5:17 to describe the old order as passing away or going away is in the aorist tense—i.e., a historical fact that is already accomplished?

3. In answer to the question of why we still feel the impact of the old order, what does Joe's illustration of a runaway truck without brakes convey?

Notes:

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

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4. What is the significance of the fact that the Greek word Paul used to announce that the new order has come is in the perfect tense—i.e., a past action with continuing results?

5. How does Joe's example of a boulder thrown into a pond illustrate what this means?

Digging Deeper:

If your group has enough time (i.e., you've listened to the audio on your own), answer one or more of these optional questions.

1. How does Joe contrast the man Adam, in league with the devil, with the God-man Jesus, in league with the Almighty God?

2. What does Joe mean when he compares the six days of creation with Christ's sequential or progressive transformation of the old order to the new—i.e., new teaching, new freedom, new people, new day, new heaven and new earth, and new city?

3. What words come to mind when you think of that part of the new order that is yet to come—i.e., no more tears, sorrow, or death; God on His throne and we, as His people, with Him for eternity?

Strength through Sharing:

1. Can you recall an instance in which a new creation person brought a little bit of heaven to earth by being a blessing in your life, or when you brought a little bit of heaven to earth by being a blessing in someone else's life?

2. Read the Call to Action below. What aspect of your world will you make an effort to "fix"?

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Strength through Prayer:

Spend a few moments as a group in silent, personal prayer. Thank God that Jesus came as the God-man to make all things new.

You may want to begin your prayer with these words:

"Lord Jesus, thank You for coming to our world as a pure, sinless baby—a completely new person. Thank You for bearing my sins on the cross and making me a new creation. Thank You for initiating a new world order that will not fail. As a new creation person, I want to walk in forgiveness of others and allow You to touch other people through me."

When you are finished with this time for silent, personal prayer, you may want to move into a time of group prayer, praying for one another.

Closing Call to Action:

How would it be if you made a plan to "fix" something in your world? It may be forgiving someone who has offended you. That is a huge fix, because it breaks the spell of the brokenness and begins to fix the broken relationship—as Christ fixed us at the cross.

Is there someone who is unlovable toward you? You could strive to "fix" that person with the love of Jesus Christ. There are a lot of people in your world who feel like nobody cares and nobody loves them. Be a new creation person: Bring the love of Christ to them.

Write down whatever the Spirit of God is speaking to you about. Before you go to bed tonight, make sure you have already made progress in fixing your world as a new creation person.

Notes:

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