



GOD'S CHURCH → *GOD'S WAY*

TOWARD A VIBRANT CHURCH



GOD'S PEOPLE, REACHING GOD'S WORLD

God's People, Reaching God's World



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Meaningful membership

God says his church is to be made up of members who enjoy responsibility for each other.



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Elder leadership

God cares for, teaches, and protects the local church through a plurality of qualified and called men who share these pastoral responsibilities.



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Deacon servanthood

God frees the elders to concentrate on spiritual oversight and provides for the physical care, administrative needs, and day-to-day functioning of the church through qualified and called men and women.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not

1 Peter 2:9-10 (ESV)

¹⁰ received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:9b (ESV)

**...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him
who called you out of darkness into his
marvelous light.**



2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1 (ESV)

From 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. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is



2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1 (ESV)

¹⁸from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we



2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1 (ESV)

2⁰ are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **2¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**
6:1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to



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2 Corinthians 5:16-6:1 (ESV)

6:1 you not to receive the grace of God in vain.



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**God entrusts us with the message
of reconciliation.**



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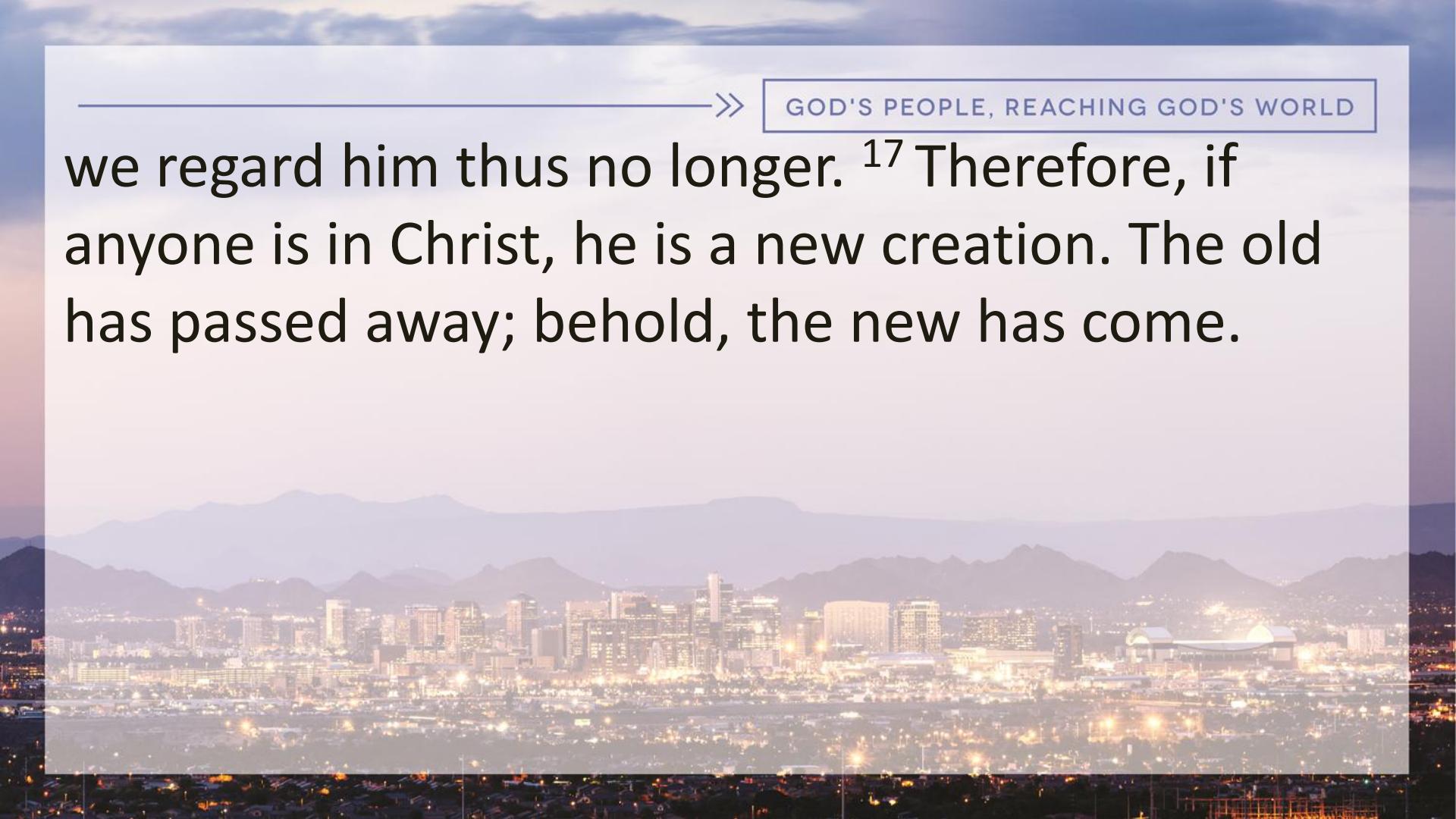
**God makes his appeal through us as
his ambassadors.**

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh,



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we regard him thus no longer.¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.





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Live as missionaries in daily life.



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**Demonstrate the truthfulness of
the gospel through biblical
community.**



“One cannot explain the explosive dynamite...of the early church apart from the fact that they practiced two things simultaneously: orthodoxy of doctrine and orthodoxy of community in the midst of the visible church, a community which the world could see. By the grace of God, therefore, the

church must be known simultaneously for its purity of doctrine and the reality of its community. Our churches have so often been only preaching points with very little emphasis on community, but exhibition of the love of God in practice is beautiful and must be there.” -Francis A. Schaeffer



“In was the incendiary character of the early Christian fellowship which was amazing to the contemporary Romans, and it was amazing precisely because there was nothing in their experience that was remotely similar to it...Much of the uniqueness of Christianity, in its original emergence, consisted of the fact



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that simple people could be amazingly powerful when they were members of one another.” -Elton Trueblood

If you would like to talk to Chuck about the sermon, please feel free to call him, email him or friend him on Facebook.



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