

Real Christians

2 Corinthians 5:17

Preface

I was prepared today to preach a sermon titled "Your Children and God." I thought it would be an appropriate sermon in light of the children baptized today. It was one of my old sermons recycled and updated. It seemed like a good idea. The problem is the Lord showed me at 3:00 AM Friday night that it was my idea and not his.

But today I am going to preach the sermon God would have me preach and it is from 2 Corinthians 5:17.

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^a for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Introduction

Everyone seems to have a different opinion about what defines a Christian.

1. Real Christians are Changed

Paul is a perfect example. Old things are passed away.

A believer is Changed, with works, with fruit, with commitment, without excuses.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

2. Real Christians are Reconciled

Not counting our sin against us, committed us to reconciliation

Passed from God's wrath to God's blessings.

Information about Jesus doesn't transform someone. Must be born again and converted.

Devoted to Christ, filled with Holy Spirit.

No more slavery to self and sin. **Baptized!**

3. Real Christians are Ambassadors

Ambassador - An official messenger or representative (RAs).

Speaking of what he has done for us, testifying, and serving.

Illus: Are you a Christian? None of your business.

Are you an Ambassador for Christ?

Conclusion

Church break-in. Stealing from God...

Want to feel God? Be obedient to God!