

NEW

Most of us like new things. Think about sliding into that vehicle you've had your eye on at the dealership and that "new car smell" that greets your senses. I mean - they even sell that smell as an air freshener because people like it so much. Sometimes new means that it's going to have more gizmos or gadgets such as new electronics. Again, we like new - the latest and greatest. We will wait in line to trade in a perfectly good, working phone simply because a newer model has come out.

We are about to flip the calendar again - another new year is about to start. Maybe this type of new doesn't excite you the same way. A new year means you will be another year older. A new year means you're not as new (young) as you were before. A new year brings some uncertainty. Will it be better than the last (well, how could it not be, right)? What if it's worse (is that even possible)?

I would like to share a few passages that speak about newness. May the start of another new year remind of the blessing of becoming new that we have from God through Jesus!

(2 Corinthians 5:17-20) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

(Ephesians 4:20-24) But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

(Colossians 3:9-10) Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Happy New Year! God continues to make all things new in Christ, so let us be committed to proclaiming the message of reconciliation and newness to our community in 2021!

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