**5:16** 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. **17** 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 from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; **19** 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. **20** Therefore, we 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** Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. **2** For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,  
 and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” [Isaiah 49:8]

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. **3** We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, **4** but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, **5** beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; **6** by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; **7** by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; **8** through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; **9** as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; **10** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**11** We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. **12** You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. **13** In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

### The Temple of the Living God

**14** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? **15** What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? **16** What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,  
 and I will be their God,  
 and they shall be my people.  
**17** Therefore go out from their midst,  
 and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch no unclean thing;  
 then I will welcome you,  
**18** and I will be a father to you,  
 and you shall be sons and daughters to me,  
says the Lord Almighty.”