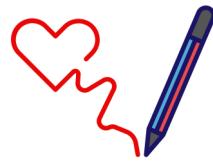


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



A New Beginning in Christ

As we step into January 2026, the world around us speaks eagerly about new beginnings. New calendars are opened, new resolutions are made, and new hopes quietly take shape in our hearts. Yet as God's people, we are reminded that our true new beginning is not defined by a date or an event, but by our life in Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul declares:

2 Corinthians 5:17 — “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

At the heart of this verse is a clear condition: “if anyone is in Christ.” This speaks not merely of belief, but of belonging. In Singapore, we understand the significance of citizenship. One may live here for many years, appreciate the culture, speak the language, and even contribute meaningfully to society. Yet only when citizenship is granted does one fully belong and experience its privileges. Without that status, the benefits remain beyond reach.

In the same way, Scripture reminds us that only when we are in Christ do we become a new creation. Christianity is not simply about moral improvement or adopting Christian values. It is about being given a new status and a new identity in Christ. When we are in Him, we receive a new citizenship, a new belonging, and a new purpose. The old identity has passed; the new has come. Being in Christ calls us into an intimate, growing relationship with our Lord; one that fuels our hunger to know Him more and to live for Him faithfully.

This new creation is not the result of human effort. It is the gracious and transformative work of God. The old patterns shaped by sin, fear, shame or failure, no longer define who we are. Just as citizenship is granted and not earned, our identity in Christ is a gift of grace. From this new identity flows a new way of living.

As we look ahead to the year before us, let us do so with clarity and confidence. We may still face challenges, uncertainties, and moments of struggle, but we can do so from a new starting point. In Christ, our past no longer holds us back, and our future is entrusted to the One who makes all things new.

To be a new creation does not mean the absence of struggles, but it does mean a renewed direction. We live not driven by our past failures, but guided by God's purposes. We are no longer defined by what we have done, but by what Christ has done — and continues to do — among us.

As a church family, let us step into this new year with a shared vision. Rooted in our identity in Christ, let us grow in faith, deepen our love for one another, and faithfully live out our calling as God's people. Let us see ourselves — and those God brings into our midst — through the lens of new creation: welcomed, renewed, and sent for His purposes.

May 2026 be a year where we walk more intentionally in Christ, strengthened by His grace, united in His mission, and confident in His leading. Together, let us move forward — not weighed down by what lies behind, but focused on the new work God is doing among us.

God bless you in the year ahead.

Pastor Kelvin