

The image features silhouettes of a family of five walking across a bridge. The father and mother are in the center, holding hands. To their left, a young girl is walking, and to their right, a young boy is walking. The silhouettes are white against a dark, textured background. The bridge is represented by a white path that curves across the bottom of the image. The overall aesthetic is artistic and symbolic, with a red splatter effect on the right side.

# Building Bridges

2 Cor. 5:14-21  
“Building Bridges for  
Generations to Follow”

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;



19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.



Our theme for 2016 is “Building Bridges.” We have looked at several aspects of how this applies to us, today. We saw three basic principles:

- Bridges are built to remedy a problem
  - Building bridges requires a plan
- Built bridges results via perseverance

Last week we went to Job 22:21-30 to consider:

*“Building a Spiritual Bridge to Satisfy Our Lives”*

This morning, we will consider...

*“Building Bridges for Generations to Follow”*



The construction began on **January 5, 1933**. The project was finished and opened **May 27, 1937**.

How many generations have crossed that bridge during the last 79 years!



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=golden+gate+bridge&view=detailv2&&id=EAE4C22F40A06F688F58D0714FA5F81696F23CEF&selectedIndex=0&ccid=Nn%2fgmOL8&simid=608050250498641103&thid=OIP.M367fe098e2fc9cae465cb4706b0a9a0fH0&ajaxhist=0>

The Brooklyn Bridge was constructed **between 1869-1883.**



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=When+was+the+Brooklyn+bridge+built%3f&view=detailv2&&id=8D1FADEA0A35310CA9B0D77E3F95F65A89C23FAE&selectedIndex=0&ccid=nz1e4AgJ&simid=608016917271478889&thid=OIP.M9f3d5ee00809c229f41a62462ec25110H0&ajaxhist=0>



How many generations have crossed that bridge during the last 133 years!



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=When+was+the+Brooklyn+bridge+built%3f&view=detailv2&&id=1D5F364F3F5616E252E36518CD1B5B1874968FD2&selectedIndex=1&ccid=M3Jcbupe&simid=607999080259520320&thid=OIP.M33725c6eea5ede129c385f1b16f78741o0&ajaxhist=0>

The Old London Bridge of nursery rhyme fame dates from 1176:



How many generations have crossed that bridge during the last 839 years!

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=When+was+the+London+bridge+built%3f&view=detailv2&&id=4FF81F2C6E118C977AA5E2FCB872BA711ABF6C8C&selectedIndex=11&ccid=98gn9TJm&simid=608017101953239448&thid=OIP.Mf7c827f5326698443666d05a7337c1b1o0&ajaxhist=0>

## I. THE PREMISE OF RECONCILIATION 5:14-16

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.



## A. The Foundation is Love, 5:14

2 Cor. 5:14 For **the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

Gal. 5:6b "...but **faith** which **worketh by love.**"



## B. The Fruit is Life, 5:15-16

2 Cor. 5:15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

Jn. 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: **I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**



## II. THE PRIVILEGE OF RECONCILIATION, 5:17-19

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.



## A. The Change, 5:17

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

B. The Communion, 5:18a – “...reconciled **us to himself by Jesus Christ...**”

Rom. 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**:

2 By whom also **we have access by faith** into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**



C. The Commission, 5:18b-19 – “...and hath **given to us the ministry of reconciliation;** (19)...and hath **committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**”

### III. THE PERETUITY OF RECONCILIATION, 5:20-21

2 Cor. 5:20 **Now then we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.



A. The Cause, 5:20 – “**Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...**”

1 Sam. 17:29 And David said, What have I now done? ***Is there not a cause?***

B. The Cost, 5:21 – “For he hath **made him *to be sin for us...***”

2 Cor. 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that **if one died for all, then were all dead:**

15 And *that* he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

21 For he hath made him *to be sin for us*, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.



## C. The Consequences

2 Tim. 2:1 Thou therefore, **my son**, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, **the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**

Eph. 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein **he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**



## Conclusion

### The Ultimate Father/Family Relationship

- 1 Jn. 3:1 **Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:** therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.
- 2 Beloved, **now are we the sons of God**, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- 3 And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**



Prov. 13:22 **A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children's children:** and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just.

Prov. 17:6 **Children's children *are* the crown of old men;** and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

