

Can you believe it's 2025 already? How time flies. January 1 is a day that is commemorated as being the start of the new year. January 1st has not always been the beginning of the New Year. In the Bible it reveals that March/April was the beginning of the New Year (Exodus 12:2) among other passages). Generally speaking, the new year started with the 1st new moon after the barley crops reached their stage of greening. It was also associated with the Passover in the time of Moses, symbolizing a new start for the Hebrew people. The Romans can be credited with moving the date to January (some say as early as 700bc, with 153bc being the official date. In 46bc Julius Caesar introduced the Julian Calendar and retained the January 1 start date. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII formulated the Gregorian calendar which is the basis of our modern calendar and officially adopted January 1 as the New Year start. However, it appears that the American colonies were slow to adopt this date until 1752.

Well, all that to say that January 1st is an artificially set date, but that does not mean we cannot and should not, take the opportunity to reset our hearts, minds, and focus on a new, fresh start.

Let's look at a few "NEW STARTS" concepts from the Bible.

Isaiah 43:18,19... ¹⁸ *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Isaiah 65:17... *"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.*

Revelation 21:5... *And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also, He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

2 Corinthians 5:17 ...*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

A New Command

John 13:34... *"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.*

John 15:9-13... ⁹ *"As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love.¹¹ "I have spoken these things to you so that My*

joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

¹² This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.

A New Calling

John 13:35... *³⁴ “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

John 15:9-17... *⁹ “As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commands and remain in His love. ¹¹ “I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.*

¹² This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are My friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should

remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. ¹⁷ This is what I command you: Love one another.

A New Counselor

John 14:15-26... *¹⁵ “If you love Me, you will keep My commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn’t see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ “In a little while the world will see Me no longer, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live too.... ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.*

A New Communion

John 17:20-26... *²⁰ I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. ²¹ May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me. ²² I have given them the glory You have given Me. May they be one as We are one. ²³ I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent*

Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ Father, I desire those You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world's foundation. ²⁵ Righteous Father! The world has not known You. However, I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them.

A New Years Choice – Will you choose to accept Christ's Command and Calling in your life, follow the Counselor and experience true Communion.

2 Corinthians 5:17 ...*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*