

2 CORINTHIANS LESSON 9

Chapter 5:11-21, Living Your New Life

26 June 2023

11-12 We know what will happen to lost men and women if we don't introduce them to Jesus Christ. That is why we proclaim the gospel; **"we persuade men."**

"But we are made manifest unto God (God knows our heart); **and...in your consciences."** We need to live in a way that will show people we belong to God. People can't see our heart, but our actions can reveal it.

Vs 13 In all that we do, **"it is to God"** or for the cause of others. People may think we're **"beside ourselves"** (odd or out of our mind), but they will know we're devoted to Jesus Christ.

Vs 14 **"For the love of Christ constraineth us..."** Your love of Jesus Christ will cause you to place some limits on your life. That love will affect your activities, your treatment of others, and the places you allow yourself to go.

"...if one died for all then were all dead." All were dead, and Christ died for all.

Vs 15 **"...they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves."** We owe Jesus Christ everything. He died for us. We ought to live our lives in a way that shows Him our appreciation.

Vs 16 **"Wherefore** (because we owe Christ) **henceforth** (from now on) **know we no man after the flesh."**

- Jesus Christ once had a physical relationship on Earth with mankind.
- Our relationship with Jesus Christ today is a spiritual relationship.
- If you are constrained and living for Christ, your relationships with people have changed from a physical nature to a spiritual nature. You try to see beyond the flesh and concern yourself with peoples' eternal destiny.

Vs 17 Note: the above context is very important to understanding this verse.

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

- The things that are become new are not physical things. The physical remains the same.
- In Christ we have a new way of interacting and relating with people.
- Those believers who continue to relate to people only after the flesh have constant problems in their relationships.
 - Every one of those problems would be resolved if the Love of Christ were constraining them (vs 14) to relate to one another on a spiritual basis.

18-19 **"And all things are of God."** This has to be understood in the context. **"All things"** concerning this new spiritual relationship are of God.

"...who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ satisfied the demands of God's Judgment and ended the enmity, contention, and strife that was between God and man.

"...and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." God has given us the responsibility to tell others about His reconciling power and the grace that He offers through Jesus Christ.

Vs 20 “**Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...**” We represent Jesus Christ in His stead. We tell others the same thing Jesus would tell them if He were here: “**Be ye reconciled to God.**”

Vs 21 “**For he hath made him to be sin for us...**” God made Jesus Christ to be sin for us. “**...Who knew no sin.**” Because Jesus Christ was sinless, He could die to pay for my sins and make me “**the righteousness of God in him.**” God put my sins on Jesus Christ at Calvary. When I trusted Jesus Christ to save me from my sins, God put His sinless righteousness on me. God no longer sees my sin.

We must learn to associate with one another on a spiritual basis. That will result in all of our difficulties, problems, and conflicts being reconciled. We’ll be reconciled to one another the same way that we are reconciled to God.

Ambassador:

- One who is sent to a foreign land with which his nation is at peace.
 - Ambassadors must go to a foreign country. It can’t come to him.
 - The ambassador’s country is judged by his example.
 - The ambassador has a message from His government. It is not his own message or opinion.
 - The ambassador speaks as instructed by his government.
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Ambassadors for Christ:

- Must live a commendable life that others can observe (vs 12).
 - Must manifest to others that we represent Jesus Christ (vs 13).
 - Live a life that is constrained by your love For Jesus Christ (vs 14).
 - Live unto God, not yourself (vs 15).
 - Relate to people on a spiritual basis, not according to the old flesh (vs 16).
 - Live your life as a new creature, putting the old ways behind you (vs 17).
 - Know that all things are of God, and God has given you an important ministry (vs 18).
 - The ministry of reconciliation has been entrusted to you by God (vs 19).
 - Perform all the duties and functions as an ambassador in a foreign land (vs. 20).
 - Understand that all this is possible because God has given you the righteousness of Christ (vs 21).
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