

Focus passage: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; **15** and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

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.

What stands out to you from this passage?

How does the love of Christ control us? How should it? Why?

*What do you think it means to live for someone else as we're told we should live for Christ?
What actions in the life of a Christian can be understood as lived for another?*

*How are we new creations? **Read Romans 6:1-14***

As new creations we have a break from the old ways in which we were slaves to sin. Our death with Christ was a death to sin, and our life that we have in him (Rom 6:4) gives us a freedom to live for God. Have you experienced this freedom from the dominion of sin (Rom 6:14)?

More than just a ceasing from sin, God calls us into his service. How are we ministers of reconciliation? What does that mean?

Through Christ we have peace with God. To be reconciled our sin and hostility had to be put to death so that we who were once far off could be brought near to God. What can we now do to heed Paul's urging to be reconciled to God?

What is the job of an ambassador? How can we be like ambassadors for Christ?

If an ambassador never interacts with the foreign culture, is the job of ambassador being fulfilled? If we as ambassadors never interact with non-Christians, what does that say about us?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

