

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

English Standard Version

5 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. 12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

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.^[a] 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^[b] 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.

Week Six Live Like You're Dying

*Man, what'd you do?" He said
"I went skydiving, I went Rocky Mountain climbing
I went 2.7 seconds on a bull named Fumanchu
And I loved deeper, And I spoke sweeter
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying"
And he said "Someday I hope you get the chance
To live like you were dying"*

_ Live Like You're dying by Tim McGraw

We left off in verse ten, where we encounter the first scene for a Christian after death. The moment we see Jesus face to face standing before the Judgement Seat of Christ. We pivot in verse 11 to the impact this makes on how we live our lives in the present. Therefore, we now live knowing what it is to fear the Lord. That is, we live with a deep sense of awe, respect, reverence for Jesus, wanting to do everything we can to please and honor the Lord with our lives. The rest of the verses guide us in how we live so that death will be gain. When we properly understand death, it moves us to live better lives in the present. Let's look at how we _____ like we are _____.

A Foundational Truth that drives every aspect of our lives: The _____

14a For the love of Christ controls us,

These two verses are the hinge on which everything in these verses swings. In v. 14, it states, "the love of Christ controls us," or the love of Jesus is our _____ truth. The word control has in mind a word picture of the banks of a river. Some translations use the word constrain or compel. The truth in the passage is the guiding, compelling truth that should drive our everyday life. It's the one thing that will shape everything else in your life.

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.

Again, it's the focusing question. You simply ask yourself in any given area of your life, "What's the one thing I can do, such that by doing it everything else is easier or unnecessary?" That's it. Define where you're going and determine what your next step is to get there. Your ONE Thing is always tied to your destination. At any given moment it is your most levered action – your first domino – that starts it all and gets you the most bang for your buck. We can't do everything, but we can do ONE Thing that matters most at any given moment in time. Over time, a pattern can emerge around your career, skills and passion. For me, my ONE Thing always comes back to teaching in one form or another. That's my ONE Thing.

-Gary Keller Chariman and CoFounder of Keler-Williams Real Estate and author four national best sellers including wildly popular book "One Thing"

Our One Thing that all Else is Built:

- One _____ For All
- Therefore _____ Died
- We should no longer continue living in the _____ of sin & death
- We can be _____ to new life

How this One Thing Shapes Our Lives:

1. We no longer live for _____ (v.15a)

When we realize the depths and lengths that God went to show us His love, we give God our very best. What we are to give God is our lives. It was for our sake that Christ died. Jesus was the purest, holiest person to set feet on the planet. He loved, served, healed, and forgave. Jesus gave His life _____ to deliver us from the cycle of sin and death.

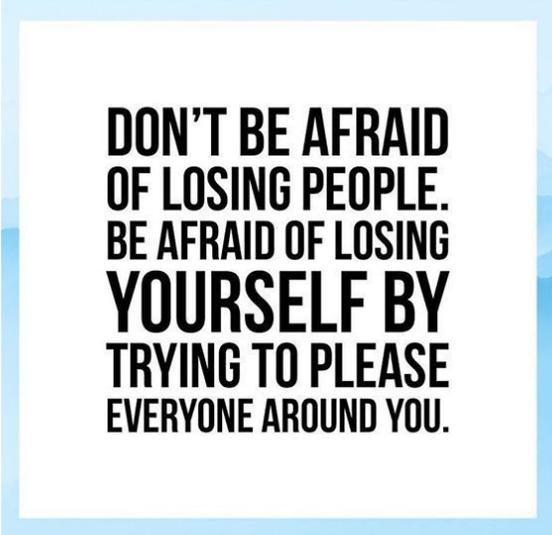
Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you [b] free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

The true sign that we have repented is that we confess Christ died for me; I now give my _____ to _____ for Him.

2. We no longer live for _____ (v.12,13)

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

The desire to measure people by outward appearance is a significant theme throughout these scriptures. There were those in the church that were judging Paul due to his outward appearance. They surmised Paul to be wretched, pitiful, and sometimes off his rocker. Paul reminds them that he aims to please the Lord who gave His life for him to be ready when he stands before King Jesus. There is incredible freedom when you move from being a _____ to being a _____.



**DON'T BE AFRAID
OF LOSING PEOPLE.
BE AFRAID OF LOSING
YOURSELF BY
TRYING TO PLEASE
EVERYONE AROUND YOU.**

3. We have a radically _____ of people (16-17)

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.[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We regard no one according to the flesh, that is we do look at people the way it is done in the world. The world measures people. The worth of a person is measured by a set of metrics. The worldly way to value peoples worth is by:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

We now look at people as ones for who Christ died. No matter how the world views them, we see them as created in the image of God, fallen and broken but only one step away from being a new creation in Christ. We see people for not where they are but who they are to Jesus and what they can be in Christ.

Life Story: _____

Looking at people with this view is radical and will change your life. Most of our troubles in life originate from relationship issues. When we take this outlook, we will solve the vast majority of our people problems. When you start seeing people through the eyes of Jesus, you will change how you relate to them. You see people in need of a new creation or in need of realizing their new creation, and you understand that you are dealing with a precious life for which Jesus died, you will act differently. Your further actions will cause you to become a person of impact. Like Jesus, you will be a people magnet because you see the best in them, desiring to bring it out.

4. We accept a new _____ that drives our _____ (18-21)

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[b] 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.

Being a new creation is from God, and God has given it to us as our life's most significant work. We are all ministers. We have a _____ and message of _____.

Reconciliation - We are not right. We have departed, violated, our God-given purpose. Our sin separates us from the very life of God. Our self-efforts to fix this _____ only lead to further brokenness. We are powerless to stop the death of our souls that we initiated. So God in His great love sent the _____ and _____ Jesus to reconcile us to God. Jesus came to bridge the divide between God and us. God could not look away from our sin or change the just punishment of our sin. In verse 21, the answer to

this dilemma is that Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God. Reconciliation is Jesus bringing us back into a _____ with God through His atoning, death, and glorious resurrection. So, what was wrong is made right in Christ.

Our ministry of Reconciliation:

We see places the kingdom of _____ reigning is a place for us to get to work. Jesus taught us to pray, “thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” When we see hell on earth, we go into action to bring heaven into that hell. It does not take long to see the areas of suffering on earth. They exist all around us. We see addiction, abuse, homelessness, orphaned children, wayward teens, hunger, depression, despair, disease, dying, and folks just looking for a friend. It is our work to do something to change the situation. When we look at these dark places, they appear to be impossible _____. They are bigger than we could ever imagine bringing down. That is why Jesus said, “with the faith of a mustard seed, we could move mountains.” _____ act of obedience to repel darkness empowered by Jesus will have an impact beyond our imaginations.

List Three Areas of Darkness that you have encountered:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List one action you can take to repel at least one of these places of darkness:

- 1.

Our message of Reconciliation:

1. Converse with people about life asking a lot of questions and listening.
2. Listen for the wound (areas of struggle)
3. Identify with the struggle sharing your journey
4. Ask them if you can share how you found relief
5. Share with how God understands their struggle and loves them so much He sent Jesus on mission to deliver them from the struggle into full life
6. Explain how this took place using v.21
7. Invite them to surrender their life to Jesus, so they can live the new resurrected life