

THE NEW LIFE | Living for Christ Part II  
2 Corinthians 5:11-17  
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Lord's Day, January 29, 2017

The new life is characterized by . . .

- > Living in light of eternity (5:1-10)
- > Living for Christ (5:11-15)
  - There are two dynamic motives that compel us to live for Christ and not ourselves:
    1. The fear of the Lord (5:9-13)
    2. The love of Christ (5:14-15)
- > Living as ambassadors of Christ (5:16-21)

Two dynamic motives that compel us to live for Christ and not ourselves:

1. The fear of the Lord (5:9-13)
2. The love of Christ (5:14-15)

#### A. The love of Christ is sacrificial (v. 14a).

- (1) Christ loves you!
- (2) Christ died for your sins to reconcile you to God (vv. 18-19, 21).

#### B. The love of Christ is controlling (v. 14a).

> “controls” - It can mean “to hold together,” “to enclose,” “to hold fast,” or “to constrain.”

“For the love which Christ has [for me] presses on me from all sides, holding me to one end and prohibiting me from considering any other, wrapping itself around me in tenderness, giving me an impelling motive.” -Kenneth Wuest

> What is the primary controlling factor in your life?

> How can we come to a place where we are continually conscious of Christ's love?

The answer is, through the gospel. It is, of course, the Holy Spirit who pours out His love into our hearts (Romans 5:5), but He does this through the message of the gospel. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus paid for all our sins on the cross and that we are thereby forgiven. As we continually reflect upon that gospel, the Holy Spirit floods our hearts with a sense of God's love to us in Christ. And that sense of His love motivates us in a compelling way to live for Him. A sense of obligation and duty never stimulates such a desire within us. Only love does that. If we are going to persevere as committed disciples of Jesus Christ over the course of our lives, we must always keep the gospel of God's forgiveness through Christ before us. We should, to use the words of my friend Jack Miller, preach the gospel to ourselves every day.

- Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*

#### C. The love of Christ is liberating (v. 14b-15).

- (1) Liberates us from the bondage of sin and selfishness (v. 14b)
  - > We died when Christ died

Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

> We died to the self-life

“Liberation from Self-Love”

First, the gospel assures me that the love of God is infinitely superior to any love that I could ever give to myself. “Greater love has no one than this,” says Jesus while speaking of His love. And the deeper I go into the gospel, the more I experience the truth of His claim and thereby know how far His love for me surpasses even my own. His astonishing love for me renders self-absorption moot and frees me up to move on to causes and interests far greater than myself.

Second, the gospel reveals to me the breathtaking glory and loveliness of God, and in so doing, it lures my heart away from love of self and leaves me enthralled by Him instead. The more I behold God’s glory in the gospel, the more lovely He appears to me. And the more lovely He appears, the more self fades into the background like a former love interest who can no longer compete for my affections.

- Milton Vincent, *A Gospel Primer for Christians*

(2) Liberates us to live for Christ (v. 15)

> What is the evidence of Christ-centered life?

Psalm 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for your name’s sake!

(3) Liberates us to love others (2 Cor. 1:6; 4:15; 5:13; 8:16; 11:2; 12:14-15, 19)

The love of Christ keeps us from living for ourselves and instead causes us to pour out our life for others.

2 Corinthians 12:14–15 Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?