

LifeGroup Questions
Based On: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
May 15, 2016

Overview:



What if you came home one day and found this symbol painted on your house? What would you do? The symbol stands for Nasara, which means Nazarene. It is the symbol that ISIS uses to mark the houses of Christians in the land they take over. Once you have been marked you have very few choices. Christians in these lands can either pay a high tax, give up one of their children for Jihad, convert to Islam or run away.

Running away is what thousands of Christians decided to do in Mosul, Iraq. They left everything they had. They left their jobs, businesses, homes, everything they owned. Most of them only had the clothes they were wearing when ISIS took over. These believers needed to make a choice. Was their faith real or was it just something they did on Sundays?

In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 the Apostle Paul writes about a powerful force working within all Christians. It is the love of Christ. He states that this love is so strong that believers will no longer live for themselves but for Jesus. This love is also what motivates believers to love others. 1 John 4:19 reads, “We love because He first loved us.”

This love is being visibly demonstrated by the Christians in Mosul. They are no longer living for themselves but giving everything up for the one that loved them first. Jesus loved sinners so much He was willing to die for them. Now we can read in the news on a weekly basis about believers loving Jesus so much they are dying for Him. Philippians 1:20-21 reads, “My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all boldness, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For me, living is Christ and dying is gain.” All Christians who know the love of Christ should want the Nasara painted on their house.

Bible Study: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

1. What do you think about when you read of Christians leaving everything they own or losing their lives because of their love for Christ?
2. How does society define love? Do you think this definition has infiltrated the church? Why or why not?
3. Discuss what perfect love looks like. How is this demonstrated in your life?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. What does it mean to no longer live for yourself? In what can this be seen in your life?
5. “Christ, moved by his love, considered the needs of others for reconciliation more important than his own glory and position with the Father. As a result, he died “for all” in order to save them.”¹ Crucifixion is a brutal way to die. How would you explain to a non-believer how Jesus’ bloody death on the cross represents love?
6. Paul preached about God’s love, but he also preached about God’s judgment. Why is it important to keep a balance between the two?
7. What is one thing you can do this week to show the love of Christ to someone you know?

¹ Hafemann, S. J. (2000). *2 Corinthians* (p. 240). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.