

A New Perspective

April 24, 2022

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:10-15

Introduction:

Big Idea: My beliefs in and about Jesus ultimately determine my _____ and _____ toward myself and others.

1. What you _____ determines _____ you are and _____ what you do (10-13).

- **For Paul, it was the fear of Lord that fueled his soul with motivation.**
- What is the fear of the LORD?
 - It begins with _____ - _____ (bible anchored) thinking (10).
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - Proverbs 9:10
 - Psalm 14:1
- His actions were directly affected by his understanding of _____.
- An accurate understanding of God led Paul to seek to be known by others as God knew his _____ (12-13).

2. Your understanding of Christ's love is directly _____ to how you _____ & _____ (14-15).

- **For Paul, it was the love of Christ that gripped him and ignited selfless living.**
- What is the love of Christ?
 - The death & resurrection of Jesus both defines and describes _____.
 - Romans 5:6-8 The cross reveals Christ's love for Paul and all believers.
 - Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 3:19 Christ's loving, substitutionary death motivated Paul's service for Him.
- **Truth into Action:** The Apostle Paul's actions were directly affected by his understanding of God ways.
 - Therefore, remember that your behavior follows your beliefs.
 - Beware, it's normal to focus on the outward appearance and neglect the heart.
 - Live with a daily awareness of the condition of your heart (inner life), since that is what matters to God.



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Share one thing that is true and one thing that is untrue with those in your group.

v. 11 Because Paul reveres (fears) the Lord, what does he do?

Transparency is an important virtue in our world as it was back in Paul's day. Compare 5:11 with what Paul has already said in 2 Corinthians 1:12-13 and 4:2. Summarize what he wants them to believe about him.

v. 12-13 What opportunity is Paul giving to the Corinthians?

Considering what you have learned about Paul's opponents, what could Paul mean by "taking pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart"?

v. 14-15 The engine that should drive our spiritual life is the overwhelming gratitude we should feel at the gracious love of God for us. We are the beloved. If you are not firmly grounded in that TRUTH, what motives are fueling your spiritual life? Check to make sure you are not being motivated by fear of God, performance to earn His favor, or general indifference.

Paul affirmed that Christ's love compels him to continue preaching the gospel to persuade others to trust the Lord. What does Christ's love compel you to do (v. 14) in your life?

How does taking pride in what's seen rather than what's in the heart (v.12) impact our ability to live for Him instead of for ourselves?"

Closing Prayer: Father help me to live a life marked by love that matches the kind of love you displayed for me in your death and resurrection!