

Group Discussion Questions: Sunday, August 17

2 Corinthians 5: 14-21

Read v14-15.

- In the NIV it says “Christ’s love compels us.” What does the word ‘compel’ or ‘compelling’ mean to you? Describe something that you feel compelled by, or that you find compelling to explain its meaning.
- Now do the same for ‘convinced.” We are CONVINCED that one died for all.” Share something that you are convinced of, and how it determines your thoughts and actions. Gravity. Taxes. How does your conviction about some of these things compare to your conviction about Christ?
- What part of your understanding of God feels the most compelling for you right now?
- We are no longer to live for ourselves, but instead to live for Christ. As you consider the life of Christ-where do you see His devotion to the Father? In the big things? In the little things?
- Which of those things that Christ did can you also do-in order to devote yourself to Him and live for Him instead of yourself?

Read v. 16-18.

- Think of the last person that you would say you thought of from a worldly viewpoint. Don’t share about the person specifically-but share with the group what it was about your thoughts that made you define them as ‘worldly.’
- Are there some things in your life or in our culture that encourage you to view others in a ‘worldly’ way? How have you found success in putting those practices to rest, or keeping them in check?
- According to verse 18, who is responsible for this renewal and reconciliation?

Read v. 19-21. On Your Own.

For 5-10 minutes have each member read these verses and then sit prayerfully with the following questions:

- What is your emotional response to the reality of God not counting your sins against you?
- If there are people in your life whose “sins against you” you are currently counting-who are they? How did they hurt you?
- Why does releasing those hurts feel challenging or difficult?

- Spend a few moments in prayer lifting these people and these situations before God. If you can visualize God with them. How is He looking at them? Does He approach them? Does His response to them change the way you view them?
- Christ's reconciliation means that we are again brought near to God-not because of our own merit but because of Christ's. Write or pray a prayer to Jesus, sharing with Him your reaction to this reconciliation.
- Come back to the group and share as you feel led.