

***Returning to the Authentic Gospel
Restoring Our Faith – God’s Reconciliation
2 Corinthians 5:11 - 6:2 – Part 1***

ONE THING

When we live with an eternal perspective we will walk with internal peace and external power!

Courageous Ministry...

In verses 1-6 of 2 Corinthians 4, Paul how to have courage to fulfill the ministry...

Living in God’s Power...

In verses 7-12 of 2 Corinthians 4, Paul then gives us the secret to living in God’s Power...

Our weakness releases God’s Power!

Now we move to Paul bringing those two ideas together and showing how we can remain consistent in our faith no matter what circumstances arise...

We must live with Eternal Perspective!

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

Looking toward our Heavenly home!

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

***Part 1
Why Humanity Needs God’s Reconciliation***

1. Judgment NECESSITATES God’s Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:11–13 (ESV) — 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. 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. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

What does Paul mean here about “knowing the fear of the Lord”...?

The key to finding out what Paul means is in the first word... “Therefore”...

The “therefore” points back to the previous verse

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV) — For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

The reality and certainty of Judgment should motivate us greatly!!!

The reality and certainty of Judgment...

Matthew 12:36 (ESV) — I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) — ... It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment

The reality and certainty of the Believer's Judgment...

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 (ESV) — Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

The reality and certainty of the Unbeliever's Judgment...

Revelation 20:11–13 (ESV) — Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

WARNING! Promoting God's Reconciliation is going to make you look crazy to the world and to worldly Christians!

2 Corinthians 5:13 (ESV) — For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

The phrase, "beside ourselves" literally means ...

To think or reason in a completely irrational manner—'to not be in one's right mind, to be insane, to be mad, to be out of one's mind, insanity, madness.'

Acts 26:24–25 (ESV) — And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind." But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words.

This is even what people thought of Jesus...

Mark 3:21 (ESV) — And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

When Paul says this he is referring to the reality that the Good News of Jesus is foolishness to the world

1 Corinthians 1:22–23 (ESV) — For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV) — The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to

him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

1. Judgment NECESSITATES God's Reconciliation.

2. God's Love INCORPORATES God's Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:13–15 (ESV) — For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 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.

First, HOW does the love of Christ CONTROL us?

2 Corinthians 5:13–15 (ESV) — For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died ...

Romans 6:1–3 (ESV) — What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Galatians 2:20 (ESV) — I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

As we daily surrender into the death of Jesus, the life of Jesus releases the love of Jesus both internally and externally!

What does the Love of Christ release?

- I am COMPLETELY ACCEPTED!
- I am UNCONDITIONALLY LOVED!
- My Life REALLY MATTERS!

1. Judgment NECESSITATES God's Reconciliation.

2. God's Love INCORPORATES God's Reconciliation.

3. The Flesh ALIENATES God's Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:16 (ESV) 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.

1 Samuel 16:7b (ESV) ... For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

This has been the central problem since the Fall in Eden

Genesis 3:5 (ESV) — For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

We became our own god...

As such we believe we have the right to define what is best for ourselves...

We believe we can define what is right and wrong, good and evil...

Ephesians 4:17–18 (ESV) — Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

John 6:63a (ESV) — It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all ...

Even among people professing to be Christians we find constant division

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

How do we move from a world of chaos and division to a world where people are truly walking in unity and harmony?

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**Part 1
Why Humanity Needs God’s Reconciliation**

1. Judgment _____ God’s Reconciliation

2. God’s Love _____ God’s Reconciliation

➤ **I am _____!**

➤ **I am _____!**

➤ **My Life _____!**

3. The Flesh _____ God’s Reconciliation