

Jesus Christ, The Reason Why We Live

2 Corinthians 5:11-16 NLT

11 “Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too.

12 Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart.

13 If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.

14 Either way, Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now!”

Introduction: If not for Him, then for Who? **Calculated Compromise, Carnal Consumption, Cowardly Courage, Costly Conclusions.**

1. The Mandate and The Motive

11 “Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too.

- Where fear of responsibility (lack of reverence) does not exist , foolish folly will prevail.**

Fear in this verse is the Greek word Phobos, which means terror.

It's the root of the word phobia. It's not just the act of being scared, but it reflects a level of respect of something or your faith in something.

“Your fear of anything, is your faith in that thing.”

..We work hard to persuade others- passionate enthusiasm, energy and eagerness of effort.

11b - God is aware of the sincerity of our hearts and we pray that you also see our sincerity and reason.

12 Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can

answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart.

We are giving you an opportunity to gladly boast of the fact that the ministry we are providing for you, is coming from the heart of sincerity, and not some outward prideful performance that's pretentious at best because it's just a show looking to be seen and heard only.

“Don't be fooled by performance driven preaching and praise.”

“If what you see at church, doesn't look like what you see in the streets, don't trust it.”

“Spirit -filled and Spiritual Fruit, do not have a turn on and turn off switch.”

2. The Message in The Madness

13 If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.

We may appear to be out of our mind in blissful divine ecstasy, just know that's for God, not for you. What's for you is when we come down and back to ourselves. Giving God glory is to give Him everything within us. The psalmist said, everything within him blessed the wonderful name of God.

3. The Ministry Within

14 Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

When He died we all died with Him and now that we live, we live according to and by the control of the ministry, maneuvering and mastery of Christ's Love.

4. The Mission Without

15 He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

“Living for Christ doesn't mean just good worship, it means good works.”

5. The Marvel that Comes With it All

16 So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. **At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view.** How differently we know him now!”

We no longer judge people according to their human nature, but the divine atonement, inheritance, grace, mercy, forgiveness and restoration that they have in Christ.