

MESSAGE NOTES: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 - ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (*Optional*):

- Without looking it up, how long do you think pizza can reasonably be left out, and still be safe to eat? (You can Google it once everyone has answered)

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. In this passage, Paul uses words like "persuade" and "implore." What is the role of persuasion and intellectual arguments in faith? Do you have to be convinced of something intellectually before agreeing with it? Why or why not?
3. **Verse 14** says, "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died." What does Paul mean when he says all have died?
4. What does it practically look like to "live for Christ" and "no longer live for yourself"? Can you think of any examples from your life or those you know?
5. **Verses 16-18** assert that being reconciled to God does not just change our status but our very nature as well. How does the death and resurrection of Jesus make us new creations? What does it mean to be a new creation?
6. Read **Verse 21** aloud. What is the significance of this verse to salvation? Why was it necessary for Jesus to become sin? And why was it necessary for us to have his righteousness?
7. In this passage, Paul begins and ends with evangelism. He reflects on the fact that they have been reconciled to God through Christ, and he uses this as motivation to be ambassadors for Christ. Does reflecting on your own reconciliation with God motivate you to share this "message of reconciliation" with others? Why or why not?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.
- Thank God for reconciling you to Himself.
- Pray that God would grow your love for those who are not yet reconciled to Him.