



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE POWER OF OBEDIENCE

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

Let's begin by reading this Scripture written by the Apostle Paul to the body of believers in the church at Corinth. Read it slowly, savoring every word.

2 Corinthians 5:14-20 ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that 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. ²⁰ We 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.**

What speaks to you from this scripture?

1. I am drawn to the first phrase, **For Christ's love compels us**. I love this because it reveals the proper motivation for every part of our relationship with God's love. Jesus proved his love for us by dying for us and making us into a new creation. How are you compelled or motivated by God's love for you? Please share.

I know there are times in my life that I want to be motivated only by God's love, but I wasn't. I want to spend time with God, not out of a sense of duty or obligation, but motivated solely by my love and my desire for him. I also want to serve him and the people he puts in my path because of my love for him and for them. Honestly, sometimes I do, but being very real, sometimes I don't. Sometimes I serve out of a sense of duty and cold obligation. These are not "currencies" in the Kingdom of God. Though sometimes, we simply have to obey because he is worthy, knowing that the passion will come as we live in this obedience. But we can live in the freedom he has given to us — driven by the Holy Spirit's motivations that are within us.

A good question to grapple with is this: How are you motivated and compelled by God's sacrificial love? I think **1 John 4:19** reveals how we grow in our ability to love. It says: **We love because he first loved us.** This means that the more I am experiencing his love, the more I will be motivated by it. So, the key is to identify how we experience his love and then regularly, daily, make the time for it. Do you agree?

Do you regularly make the time to meet with him and experience his love? When do you make the time? Do you know how to experience his love? Take a moment to discuss how one approaches God to experience his love. Share this.

2. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **15** And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

What is the central idea of these two verses?

These verses clearly teach that if you are in Christ, your life does not belong to you, you now live for him. Another verse says it like this: **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ...You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.** Living your life for Christ and his purpose calls us to a life of radical obedience. Do you agree? What does "radical obedience" look like in the Christian's life?

David Platt says: Radical obedience to Christ is not easy... It's not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us.

Share some of your struggles and your victories as you strive to live a life of obedience to God.

3. **2 Corinthians 5:16-17** So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new has come!

These verses explain that when we experience the Holy Spirit's work in our life, we are "in Christ" and we are made new and have a completely new perspective. Paul is seeking to help us see that anything opposed or hostile to God is "old". Only that which is the work of the Spirit in our lives is "new".

What does it mean to "regard Christ from a worldly perspective"?

What does it mean to "regard no one from a worldly point of view"?

In your life, how much of the "old" is gone and how much of the "new" has come? How might you have less "old" and more "new".

4. **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that 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. ²⁰ We 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.

What is the main point of these three verses?

Have all who are in Christ been given the ministry of reconciliation or is that just for a few chosen people? So, have you personally been given the ministry of reconciliation?

What tangible steps are you taking to engage with and accomplish your God-ordained Gospel-centered mission?