

1 ☐ **II Corinthians 5:12-**

Be Reconciled to God

2 ☐ **II Corinthians 5:12-17**

For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you. For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer. Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he* is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

3 ☐ **II Corinthians 5:17-21**

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

4 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

12 - For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart.

- *Paul and his fellow-workers don't need to start all over again explaining to the Corinthians why they should be believed.*
- *But here he does provide answers that the faithful members of the Corinthian church can use against false teachers.*

5 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

13 - For if we are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or if we are of sound mind, *it is* for you.

- *If they sometime seem to be besides themselves, that is in response to God.*
- *If they sometimes maintain a sober, quiet demeanor, that is so that they may teach the believers more effectively.*

6 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

14 - For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

- "The love of Christ" -- *primarily Christ's love for us, but also our love to Him, which is our proper response.*
- "Compels" -- *Not urging or driving, but shutting in on both sides, narrowing to one line and purpose, like in a narrow road, with walls on either side.*
- "Then all died" -- *All were dead spiritually, and all were under sentence of eternal death.*
- *Christ's death counted as the death of every guilty sinner.*

7 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

15 - and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

- Since Christ died in the place of each sinner, therefore each sinner, from the moment he repents and believes on Christ for salvation, should not live any more to please himself but rather to please Christ, his risen Lord.

8 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

16 - Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him thus* no longer.

- From the time we first knew the love of Christ, we recognize no one by the things that distinguish him in this life -- nationality, wealth, education, social status, or power.
- Even Christ we regard not primarily by his earthly attributes -- Jewish nationality, descent from the royal line of David, employment as a carpenter, or his medium-brown skin color.
- What is important about Him is that He is the Son of God.

9 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

17 - Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- "Therefore" -- *because of Christ's death and resurrection*
- "Is in Christ" -- *all God's blessings are to be found in Christ.*
- "He is a new creation" -- *He has been born again as a new man.*
- "Old things" -- *the former manner of life*
- "All things have become new" -- *Thoughts, habits, feelings, and desires have been re-made.*

10 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

18 - Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

- *Every aspect of this amazing transformation is God's doing.*
- *God is the prime mover in reconciling us to Himself.*
- "Ministry" -- *diligent service rendered freely, not of compulsion*

11 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

19 - that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

- "That is" -- *The message of reconciliation is this:*
- "God was . . . reconciling" -- *This is the central emphasis of the statement.*
- "In Christ" -- *God was doing this through the person and work of Christ.*
 - *All of God's blessings come to us "in Christ."*
- "Trespasses" -- *transgressions*
- "Not imputing their trespasses to them" -- *Through the sacrifice of Christ, God can be both "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." (Romans 3:26)*
- "Has committed to us" -- *has placed in us*
- "The word of reconciliation" -- *the message "that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself," and that God continues "not imputing their trespasses to them."*

12 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

20 - Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- "Ambassadors for Christ" -- *an ambassador represents his sovereign in all matters in which he has been authorized to speak.*
- *As ambassadors for Christ, we have been authorized to speak for Christ in order to plead, exhort, and encourage our fellow men and women, boys and girls, to be reconciled to God.*

13 ☐ **Be Reconciled to God**

21 - For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- God appointed Christ to be the representative of sin and sinners.
- God treated Christ as sin and sinners are treated.
- Christ took on Himself to be the representative of humanity in its aspect of

sinfulness and to bear the burden of sin in all its completeness.

- Because of this, if we are in Christ, we are entitled to be regarded as God's righteousness (which Christ was) not in ourselves, but in Him, Who is our representative in all things