

Home Group Helps

2 Corinthians 5:11-17

The Ministry of the New

I. A New Fear (v.11-13) – ¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

¹² We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

II. A New Love (v.14-15) – ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

III. A New Creation (v. 16-17) - ¹⁶ Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

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1. Launching Question(s):

- When did you first experience the love of Christ?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Paul speaks of “the fear of the Lord” as being a motivator to “persuade men” of the Gospel (v.11).
- What is “the fear of the Lord” and how does it differ from worldly fear?
- What is the difference between persuading people of the Gospel and manipulating them toward the Gospel?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul frequently used the term “in Christ” to describe the believer’s union with Christ.
- What are the benefits of that union?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- What does it mean to you that you are “a new creation?”
- Read Isaiah 43:18–21; Jer. 31:33-34; and Ezek. 37:1-10, 14. How might these verses describe some of what Paul may have had in mind when he spoke of this new creation.

5. Application Question(s):

- vs. 14 states that, “the love of Christ controls us.” The word for “controls” (*sunech*) describes pressure that produces action. So, love is a controlling force!
- What would your week look like if you willingly yield to this “controlling force” of Christ’s love?