

For the Love of Christ Controls us

2 Corinthians 5:13-21

1. We don't understand the love of God.

2 Corinthians 5:13-21 (NASB)

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

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.

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.

¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2. Understanding the love of God breaks us, molds us, mends us, and changes us.

2 Corinthians 5:13-14 (NASB)

¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us

3. Understanding the love of God moves us, uses us, sends us, rules us, motivates us, and drives us.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NASB)

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.

4. Understanding the love of God heals us, restores us, washes us, strengthens us, stabilizes us, and saves us.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 (NASB)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us.....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.

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

5. Understanding/believing God's love defines us, positions us, and focuses us.

2 Corinthians 5:14 . . . 18-21

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6. How do you increase your understanding of the love of God?

- a. Know who you are.**
- b. Know who He is.**
- c. Know what He did.**