

October 5, 2025

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

The Book of 2 Corinthians – Part 4

***Called to Be Ambassadors of Christ
The Ministry of Reconciliation***

Today we continue on our multi-year journey through the New Testament where we are seeking to understand the historical, chronological & missiological of the 1st Century Church so that we in the 21st Century Church can keep the “CHURCH ALIVE & GROWING”. We pick up where we left off with Paul at the end of his 1st Letter to the Church in Corinth. As I mentioned before, Paul had spent 1 ½ years previously in Corinth evangelizing, discipling and planting churches. He then left to go to Ephesus where he stayed 3 years. During this time, Paul received news of the chaos that had erupted in the Corinth Church. That's when he wrote we know of as 1st Corinthians. It appears that he left Ephesus and made a quick ‘painful visit’ as we will learn in Chapter 2:1,2. Paul then left and promised to return for a longer visit and then he went to Macedonia. It appears he stayed in Macedonia longer than expected by him and by the Corinth church and they began to accuse him of forgetting them and seemed to question his integrity and intentions. This prompted Paul to **write the letter we know of as 2 Corinthians** about 1 year after he had sent them 1st Corinthians. Approximately 55/56 BC.

REVIEW: The Ministry of Comfort & Reconciliation

1. Receive God's Comfort—
2. Extend God's Comfort—
3. Walk in Integrity—

**We Have A Triumphant Faith &
A Transforming Faith *therefore*
‘Don't Lose Heart-Be of Good Courage**

As we have discovered from previous sections of Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth, there were a lot of issues, conflicts and differences of opinion that had arisen within the church and between the church and Paul. It is just part of living in a fallen world with imperfect people that disagreements and conflicts will arise. Even between Christians and families who love each other and have common ties and motives. With that fact in mind, it is imperative for us as mature believers to work at the Art of Reconciliation and Peace Making.

In today's passage we see how Paul lays out the **Motivation**, the **Message**, and the **Ministry** of an Ambassador of Christ. Let's see what Paul has to say both to the Corinthian Church and to us today about being “**Ambassadors of Christ, who are called to the Ministry of Reconciliation**”.

2 Corinthians 5:11-21...¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to PERSUADE others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 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 is here! 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. ²¹ God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

First, Let's Look at Our Motivation

¹¹ Since then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to PERSUADE others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. ¹² We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. ¹³ If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. 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.

Verse 14 states it clearly and simply "**The Love of Christ Compels Us**".

Our calling as a Christian to be motivated by the Love of Christ. Love needs to be the foundation motive, resource and attitude if we are to be successful as 'Christ's Ambassadors'. Going back a few verses, Paul led up to this point by saying our love is influenced by "**the fear of the Lord**" (vs. 11). This may seem to be contradicting what John the Apostle writes in

1 John 4:18... '**Perfect love casts out fear**'. There is no contradiction, just some explanation needed. In John he is talking about an unreasonable, lack of faith attitude. We should not fear God in the sense of Him acting in a way that is unjust or unloving. We can depend on His consistent righteousness. We can rest in confidence that God's Love is always going to have our best in mind. Paul is talking about in this passage that we should have a reverent respect (fear) of God as an awesome and all-powerful God who has stated that if we don't put our trust in Him through Jesus, we will suffer eternal separation and punishment. That fact, threat and reality should motivate us to try and '**PURSUADE**' (vs. 11) others to place their faith in God. Our love for people should cause us to '**fear**' the consequences of others failing to trust in God and thus missing out on eternal life with God. **Christ's love for us compels us** to try and persuade others to believe in God so they will not have to fear eternal doom.

If we truly understand God's love for us and that Christ died for us (vs. 15) and realize the consequences of not believing, we will be motivated to Share the Good News with others.

Second, Let's Look at Our Message

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 is here!

I included verse 15 in this section also as it serves as a bridge between the Motive & the Message.

The Two Key Points of the Message an Ambassador of Christ are:

1. Christ died for us so that we would not have to die for our sins, and He rose again to give us victory over sin & death.
2. We are new creations in Christ, the old is gone and we are new, fresh, whole in Christ.

What a powerful and jubilant message we have. Freedom from our old lives of sins, and Victorious new lives in Christ.

Third and Lastly, Let's Look at Our Ministry

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. ²¹ God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

We now know what our **Motivation** & **Message** should be, let's see what Paul shares about our **Ministry**.

As Christ's Ambassador's our primary identity and task is the **Ministry of Reconciliation**.

Listen to this description of **Ministry**...

"The spiritual meaning of ministry is deeply rooted in the virtues of compassion and caregiving. Ministry is seen as a divine calling, a way to serve God and humanity through acts of kindness, empathy, and selfless service." (Bing)

We are to be "**Christ's Ambassadors**" who carry out the Ministry of Reconciliation.

Let's get a few more definitions here:

Ambassador serves as the official representative of a nation, organization or individual.

They are responsible for managing diplomatic relations, promoting interests of their sending body and providing information and guidance to people.

As Christ's Ambassadors we are privileged and commissioned to bring the Message of the Good News of Salvation, Restoration & Reconciliation to the World. We operate on behalf of and by the authority of God. Our task to carry out the will and direction of God with integrity with the dual goal to **Bring Glory to God** and to **Reconcile People to God** as new creations.

Reconciliation is a central theme in the Christian faith, reflecting the restoration of the broken relationship between God and humanity due to sin. The concept is deeply rooted in the narrative of Scripture, emphasizing God's initiative in restoring peace and harmony through Jesus Christ. (BibleHub)

With all this in mind let's summarize:

**We should be Motivated by Love, to
Share the Message of Salvation in the
Ministry of Reconciliation as
Ambassadors of Christ.**

Will you step up and fulfill this calling?

Will you become a New Creation in Christ if you are not one yet? Be Reconciled become a New Creature!