



***"For the love of Christ controls us,
having concluded this,
that one died for all, therefore all died;
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."
2 Corinthians 5:14-15***

The words bring me up short as I question, does the love of Christ actually control me? If only I could determine that were the case. But my selfish will, my sinful self keeps rearing its head, straining against any restraint that would lead me to green pastures. Certain that I know better how to make myself happy, I resist His leading. I forget His great love. There is no other excuse. I forget His great love. Love that bore my sins, and yours, on a cruel cross He did not deserve.

If we truly remembered His love for us, if we understood the full extent of His gift to us, would our response not be different? Would His love not control us, causing us to live for Him who died for us?

If we believed how great His love is for us then perhaps we would echo the words of Galatians 2:20, which says, ***"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."***

He loved ME. He loves YOU - - His love is so extravagant that He gave His very life in our place.

It was our sin that was hung on that cross, that caused His intense suffering.

It was our sin.
It was His love.

Shouldn't our lives be different then? They can be, if we remember His great love, and respond in kind. That we might, like Him, no longer live for our self. He set everything aside for you and I. He set aside His rightful position as God to enter a painful humanity, because of His love. Oh that we would remember. Oh that we would comprehend the depth, the height, the completeness of His great love. And be changed! No longer living for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf... Controlled by His Great Love.

Father, forgive us for the way we forget of the love that died for us. Forgive us for not allowing that love to control us. Thank You for the great sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Who hung on that cross in our place. By Your Spirit, please, control us as He bears His fruit of love within us, and have Your way in our lives, I ask in Jesus' name, the name above all other names because He won the victory over sin and death, out of love for us. Amen.