

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Week of March 13, 2022 A.D.

You are on a Mission for God

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

1. Read verse 14. Have you experienced the love of Christ? If so, (a) how have you done so? (b) how has Christ's love changed your life? and (c) how would you describe Christ's love so that it can be understood by another person?
2. "Compel" means "to exert a strong, irresistible force". What, if anything, do you feel compelled to do in response to Christ's love for you? Please state in detail how that compulsion is expressed and/or ignored in your life.
3. Does verse 15 apply to all people or only to Christians? Please explain.
4. What does it mean for a person to live for Jesus and not to live for himself? Is living for Jesus instead of yourself a requirement or an option for (a) you and (b) every Christian?
5. Refer to verse 15 again. What does the resurrection of Jesus (a) mean for all of mankind? (b) have to do with living for Jesus?
6. Read verse 16. What does it mean to "regard Christ from a worldly point of view"? Do you regard Christ from a worldly point of view? Do most Christians? Please give details and examples to support your answers.
7. Read verse 17. Please describe (a) how Jesus has made you into a new creation, (b) the "old" which has gone from your life, and (c) the new life which has come to you.

Read verses 18-19

8. "Reconcile" means to "restore friendly relations." Are all of the inhabitants of the world at peace with and/or in a friendly relationship with God? Please explain.
9. Are there any inhabitants of the world who are at peace with God? If so, who initiated the peace process? How has that peace been accomplished? Please explain each answer.
10. What is "the message of reconciliation"? Who has the responsibility to tell the world about God's message of reconciliation? Please explain.
11. Is the church the one and only agent of God for the purpose of telling to the world God's message of reconciliation? If so, what are the necessary implications for (a) every pastor, (b) every church family, and (c) every Christian? Please explain each answer.

Read verses 20-21

12. An "ambassador" is the authorized messenger or representative of a government sent as a diplomat to serve in a foreign land. Is the world foreign to Christ? Are Christians foreigners in the world (see 1 Peter 2:11-12, Phil. 3:20, John 17:16)?
13. Do ambassadors enjoy the protection and the authority of the sovereign whom they represent? Do Christians have the authority and protection of God? Does God expect us to use His protection and authority? If so, how and why? Please explain.
14. Which has the higher priority in your life: (a) living for your own desires and agenda or (b) living for the desires and agenda of Christ? Please state specific details to verify the truthfulness of your answer. In your opinion, what is the main thing that God is saying to us in this passage of Scripture?

Consider: The world is in rebellion against God. God has appointed us as His ambassadors to carry His message of hope and reconciliation to the world. If we choose not to be involved in this mission, we are telling our friends and others that "they can go to hell and we don't care." You think about that. Amen.