

Personal/Small Group Sermon Study

Week of August 28, 2022 A.D.

The Ministry of Reconciliation

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ and He has given to each of us and to all of us the ministry of reconciliation.

(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. Refer to verse 14. Who is Christ? Who or what does Christ love? To whom, how, and when has the love of Christ been made known? What is the meaning of "compel"? How and in what way does the love of Christ compel anyone to do something and what is that something?
2. What is the meaning of "one died for all"? What is the meaning of "therefore all died"? Are all Christians equally and/or fully convinced of what Paul has proclaimed in verse 14?
3. Refer to verse 15. Please identify those religions which require its adherents and/or followers to commit their lives to the study and the fulfillment of the mission and/or teaching of "its founder"?
4. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Christianity is not a religion. Christianity is a personal living relationship with the God of the universe through faith in Jesus the Christ."
5. Do all Christians have eternal life? Do all non-Christians have eternal life? Does God require all Christians to "no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"?
6. Please explain the connection, if any, between the statements found in verses 9-10 and the statements found in verses 14-15 of this Chapter 5.

7. Refer to verse 16. How did Paul (and others) regard Christ "from a worldly point of view"? What was Paul's new point of view of Christ? What is to be the Christian's point of view of (a) non-believers and (b) believers?
8. Refer to verse 17. Are all Christians "in Christ"? Please explain the meaning of (a) "the old has gone" and (b) "the new has come".
9. Refer to verses 18-19. "Reconcile" means to "restore to friendship". Has the human race ever had a "friendship" with God? If so, does that friendship (a) still exist and/or (b) how was that friendship destroyed?
10. Please explain how God was (and is) "reconciling the world to himself in Christ"? Has God forgiven all of the sins of all of mankind? Has every person heard the message of reconciliation? To whom has God committed the message of reconciliation, how, and why?
11. Refer to verse 20. Are you an ambassador for Christ? If not, why not? If so, please (a) explain your duties as an ambassador for Christ, (b) state the priority which you assign to those duties in your daily life, and (c) state the other duties in your daily life to which you assign a higher priority.
12. Please explain the meaning of verse 21. What does God expect from you and your church family in response to this verse?

Consider: Living for Jesus is not part of your life. Living for Jesus is your life. "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!" You think about that. Amen.