

The Love of Christ Controls Us

Introduction and Review

- A believer's earthly house [body] experiences suffering, groans, long for eternal relief & will eventually experience physical death (5:1a, 2, 4a)
- A believer's resurrected body [heavenly house] is: from God & eternal (v. 1b-d), eternal clothing & immortal (5:3, 4b-c)
- Believers make preparation for our heavenly house by a lifestyle of faith in the future resurrection that gives hope (5:5-8)
- Believers make preparation for our heavenly house by a lifestyle of obedience to Christ our future Judge (5:9-10)

I. Love Controls Our Actions (v. 11-15)

A. Toward God

*The love of Christ motivates: godly **fear** or **reverential awe** (v. 11a, 10), a clear conscience (11c) & humility with self-sacrifice (v. 14-15). The love of Christ revealed in His death has great influence on a believer – “controls” (Jn. 12:32; Phil. 2:5-8).*

B. Toward people

The fear of the Lord motivates: godly persuasion of other people (v. 11b) & a good reputation with other people (v. 12, 13b). We are motivated to avoid ungodly schemes & tactics in gospel ministry (1Co. 2:1ff)

The love of Christ motivates a godly response to God & people.

II. Love Controls Our Perspective (v. 16-21)

A. Toward God

*Unbelievers do not know Jesus as the unique Son of God – meaning He is God (Jn. 5:18; 10:33; 1Jn. 2:22-23; 4:2-3). Paul confesses that as an unbeliever, he regarded Jesus as just another man (5:16b). Every true believer **knows** that Jesus is the unique Son of God & fully divine (5:16; Jn. 1:1, 14) – “no longer”.*

B. Toward people

Believers have a new perspective about every true believer: is a new creation (v. 17), has been given the ministry of reconciliation (v. 18-19), is an ambassador for Christ (v. 20) & knows the truth about redemption & reconciliation (v. 21).

The love of Christ gives believers a new perspective on God & people!