

HOW COULD I EVER SAY NO?

II Corinthians 5:14-21 (p. 1122)

Romans 5:6-10 (p. 1094)

I. Introduction

- What do you see when you look at the c_____ of your life?

Every verse is a gold mine

- v. 14 - The love of Christ controls us . . . constrains us . . . compels us . . . moves us . . . motivates us . . . drives us.
- v. 15 - We should no longer live for ourselves, but for God.
- v. 16 - We stop evaluating others from a worldly point of view -- from a human point of view.
- v. 17 - We are completely new in Christ.
- v. 18 - God brought us back into a right relationship with Him through Jesus, and has given us a ministry of reconciliation.
- v. 19 - God is in the business of bringing people back into a right relationship with Him through Jesus and doesn't hold people's sin against them, and has turned the responsibility of bringing people back to Him over to us.
- v. 20 - We are ambassadors for Jesus Christ.
- v. 21 - God made a perfect, sinless Jesus into sin on our behalf so that we can become right in God's eyes through Jesus.

II. C_____ the C_____ Jesus Paid – vs. 14, 15, 21

- Empty cross vs c_____
- John 10:11 – 18 – 5X it says Jesus gave himself w_____
- Jesus' love for us cost Him e_____

III. C_____ by the Love of Christ – verses 14

- A. Christ's love c_____ us – v. 14
 - compels us, constrains us, moves us, drives us, puts us into action
 - “His love becomes our w_____ of l_____” Ed Stetzer
 - B. Why are we hesitant to share the message of God's love with others?
 1. It is just too darn s_____
 2. I don't want to p_____
- We need to learn to listen and share our story l_____, g_____ and r_____. I Peter 3:15-16

IV. Consider Others from G_____ P_____ of V_____ – v. 16

- A. In need of f_____
- B. As e_____ beings –
C.S. Lewis - “There are no ordinary people; you have never met a mere m_____. . . .”
- C. As individuals we can c_____ a_____ to encourage.

V. Conclusion

- Three reasons we should never say “No”
- The most important question
- Respond to Jesus' question we are considering this morning

Recommended Reading:

Rebecca Pippert, Out of the Salt-Shaker and into the World.

Bill Hybels, Just Walk Across the Room

Recommended Viewing:

YouTube – Nick Vujicic – Learn to Live the Life God Has Called You To
The Passion of the Christ – Mel Gibson, Director

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II. Consider the Cost Jesus Paid – vs. 14, 15, 21

- Empty cross vs Crucifix
- John 10:11 – 18 – 5X it says Jesus gave himself willingly
- Jesus' love for us cost Him everything

III. Controlled by the Love of Christ – verses 14

- A. Christ's love controls us – v. 14
 - compels us, constrains us, moves us, drives us, puts us into action
 - “His love becomes our way of life” Ed Stetzer
 - B. Why are we hesitant to share the message of God's love with others?
 1. It is just too darn scary
 2. I don't want to proselytize
- We need to learn to listen and share our story lovingly, gently and respectfully.

IV. Consider Others from God's Point of View – v. 16

- A. In need of forgiveness
- B. As eternal beings - C.S. Lewis “There are no ordinary people; you have never met a mere mortal. . . .
- C. As individuals we can come alongside to encourage.

V. Conclusion

- Three reasons we should never say “No”
- The most important question
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