

The Message Notes

May 30, 2021

Message: Ministers of Reconciliation

- Confession
- Prayer
- Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NLT)



Points to the Message: Ministers of Reconciliation

Introduction

- You were **saved** to be **equipped** to do God's work.

Ephesians 4:11. Now these are the **gifts** Christ **gave** to the **church**: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the **pastors** and **teachers**. **12.** Their **responsibility** is to **equip** God's people to do his **work** and **build** up the church, the **body** of Christ. (NLT)

"The **secret** of being like Christ is **walking** in the **steps** of Christ." How did Christ order His life after God?" Ephesians 2:10

1. The minister's motivation - "Christ's love for us."

v14. Either way, Christ's **love controls** us. Since we **believe** that Christ **died for all**, we also believe that we have **all died to our old life**.

v15. He died for **everyone** so that those who receive his **new life** will **no longer live for themselves**. Instead, they will **live for Christ**, who **died** and was **raised** for them.

"**Christ's love** makes you so **grateful** that it **compels** you to live for Him instead of yourself."

"God desires a relationship based on **love**, not **rules** and **regulations**."

2. The minister's makeover – "A new person in Christ"

v16. So we have stopped **evaluating** others from a **human point** of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! **v17.** This means that anyone who **belongs** to Christ has become a **new person**. The **old life** is gone; a **new life** has begun!

"We no longer look at people by their outward appearance, but we want to know if they know Christ, so they can experience a spiritual makeover in Christ."

3. The minister's ministry - "reconciling people to God"

v18. And all of this is a **gift** from **God**, who brought us **back to himself** through **Christ**. And God has given us this **task** of **reconciling people** to him.

"God has given us the ministry of reconciling people to Himself."

4. The minister's message - "Come back to God!"

v19. For God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world to himself, no longer **counting people's sins** against them. And he gave us this wonderful **message of reconciliation**. **v20.** So we are Christ's **ambassadors**; God is making his **appeal** through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "**Come back to God!**" **v21.** For God **made Christ**, who never sinned, to be the **offering** for our sin, so that we could be **made right** with God through Christ.

"Come back to God! He no longer holds our sins against us. God made us right with Himself in Christ."

Takeaway: "We're ministers of reconciliation, reconciling the world to God and to one another through the ministry of reconciliation."

Application – Mind Transformation

1. What is your **primary** motivation for following Christ? If you lack motivation in your relationship with Christ and His works, why?
2. What is **new about your life** since you received Christ? Do you remember the experience of uniting with Christ and becoming a new person?
3. How do you evaluate people of different races, status, politics, education, etc.? Do you see people like God sees people – need to reconcile in Christ?
4. When was the last time you reconciled someone to God? How do you make your **appeal** to the lost about reconciling with God?
5. How are you going to make the **knowledge** of this message a **conviction** within your **mind** to act on?