

*Compelled by Christ's Love*  
**2 Cor. 5:11-17**

*"New," is not used to convey the sense of something recent, as you would buy a new coat to replace an old one; it is used in the sense of becoming a totally different kind of person. At the moment of his new birth there has come to live within him a new life; and because of this he is now governed by a new principle, arrested by a new motive, moving in new company, surrendered to new objectives. This is not a question of a man having reformed his life, nor of some new things that have been added to old things. He has not merely changed a few practices or habits; Paul says that if any man be in Christ, he is a totally different kind of person: "... things are passed away, behold, all things become new." Notice the contrast: if any man—all things have become new.*  
Redpath

- I. We can't earn the truths of the blessings of salvation, yet we are to be responsible toward them. We are to be hyper-vigilant in treating the treasure we have in these jars of clay with extreme care. That is what it means to fear the Lord. When we live to please him, we are living the gospel well. It is what Jesus will use to draw others to believe in him, and it is what Jesus will use to assure others of the sincerity of our lordship honoring faith.

2 Cor. 5:11

**1 Peter 2:12** *Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

- II. We who have become God's children have been granted an exclusive existence with him that reaches into eternity. He recreated us for that very reason. The evidence of becoming a new creation in Christ is seen by the hold /grip his love has on every believer. It is meant to compel us to grip others with an agape love in ways that show that we value and appreciate that we are loved by him.

2 Cor. 5:12-14

1 Cor. 9:16

Gal. 5:24-25

*ἡ γὰρ ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ συνέχει ἡμᾶς*

*συνέχω synéchō, = to hold completely, to hold fast*

*This strong verb means to hold a person in one's grip, more than just to sustain a person. It is probably better to translate it as "exert domination." (Cornerstone Biblical Commentary)*

*"(Grace) is God acting freely, according to His own nature of love, with no promises or obligations to fulfill: and acting righteously in view of the cross it is uncaused in the recipient: its cause lies wholly in the giver. It cannot act where there is cause..., it is absolute, it does it all. Thus our proper attitude should be, to consent to be loved, ..."*  
(Newall)

**Ephesians 2:10** *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

- III. The prince of this world and our sin nature (**sarx**), will have us thinking from a worldly point of view toward one another if we are not careful. The way we can keep ourselves from doing that, is to maintain a strong relationship with Christ. We must be willing to *put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness* in order to love one another with his love.

2 Cor. 5:16

Eph. 3:14-19

Phil 1:9

**σάρξ sárx** = the flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God

**Ephesians 4:22-24** *22You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*