

Sermon Notes | 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart.

I. **Jesus loves you despite your identity.**

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ **controls** us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

II. **He wants to give you a new identity**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (v.17)

III. **Our new identity is based on reconciliation**

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation...We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (v.18-20)

Reconciliation is God's work of restoring a broken relationship by removing the barrier that separated us from Him. It means enemies become family.

Wander → Starve → Return → Seen → Embraced → Restored

Big idea: Who you are and what you do is based on who He is and what He's done

IV. **Your new identity impacts what you do**

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. (v.20)

Ambassadors represent another authority.

Ambassadors visibly embody that authority.

Ambassadors carry delegated authority.

Ambassadors maintain loyalty to their homeland.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Discussion Questions | 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11–12

- What does it feel like to be identified by external things?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:13–15

- Why does God love you? How do you know?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16–17

- How have you seen God make you a new creation?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18–19

- What does it look like to be reconciled to God?
- What is your relationship with Him like right now?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:20

- How is God making His appeal to others through you?
- What false identities do you need to reject in order to rest in and receive the identity God is giving you?
- What is one thing you can do this week to live out of that identity?