

Taste and See the Lord is Good!

God's Transforming Love

Sunday, April 24, 2022

2 Corinthians 5: 14-21 NIV

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. Convicts

Ephesians 5: 1-4, 6-9, 14 Imitate God. Live a life filled with love. Live as people of light. The Light makes everything visible.

2. Counsels

Psalm 33:11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever.
Psalm 32:8 I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
Psalm 119: 15-16, 24 Your statutes are my delight and counselors.

3. Creates

1 Peter 1:3 He has given us new birth into a living hope.
Colossians 3: 10-11 Put on your new nature. Be renewed and become like Him.
2 Corinthians 3:18 We are being transformed into His image with ever increasing glory.

Conclusion: God's love is different than any other love we'll ever encounter. His love is transformational. His love is pure and righteous. It will convict, counsel and create us anew so we become His likeness. As Christ's ambassadors, let us embrace His transformational love and let us reflect the righteous love of God to the world around us.

LIFE GROUP LESSON

God's Transforming Love

Week of April 24 – April 30, 2022

Ice Breaker: What is one of the greatest areas of transformation you have experienced as you have followed Christ? How has that felt? How has it affected your life?

Read 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21

1. What do we learn about the effect Christ's love has on us? (v. 14)
2. What does it mean that "Christ's love compels us"? To believe what?
3. If we believe v. 15 and make that a truth we live by, how does this belief change how we make our decisions?
4. What change is God leading us towards in how we view Christ and others who have Christ in them? What does He want us to see and also let go of? (vs. 16-17)
5. Why did God send His Son to die on the cross and raise Him up again? (v. 18, 21)
6. What ministry does God entrust to us as Believers? (vs. 18-19)
7. Who are we now and what is our role? (v. 20) How do you feel about this role given to you? How do we serve well in this role?

Read Ephesians 5: 1-9, 14.

8. Who are we to imitate? Why? What is our ministry?
9. Where do we look to discern what is right, good and true? (vs. 2-9)
10. What happens when we look to the world as our standard? (v. 6)
11. Why are we called to live as people of light? (v. 14) How does that bring us into greater freedom? What do we become free from?
12. **Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.** What is God's purpose and joy as He loves us? *How should we then receive His love?*

Point to ponder: God loves us exactly where we are and yet He will never leave us where we are. His love transforms us into His glorious image. Let us surrender to His transformational love at work, receive His wise counsel, and allow the Creator to create us anew!