

Jesus DIY

No.6

Persuading others

V11-12 what we know and who we are

**2 Co 5:11** Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

**2Co 5:12** 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.

We know about Jesus, we know Jesus. We know who we are (Sinners) and we know who we are in Jesus (Forgiven)

Note v 12 – boast about others faith. Whose faith do you boast about?

12-14 Christ's love compels us

**2Co 5:13** For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

**2Co 5:14** For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

Beside ourselves, is that a way you describe your thoughts of Jesus?

Do we get beside ourselves when we think of a God's love for us?

What we know of Jesus is His love, so what we say is not about us but about His impact on us. It is that representing and re-presenting that we talked about last week. We re-present Jesus to people. We

re-tell the story of Jesus from what we know and experience of Him.

### 15 called to live for him

2Co 5:15 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.

We live for Jesus. I read an interesting article on this concept. It was title: Love Jesus, Love His church. Do we live for the church? In that context we love the church as Jesus loves the Church, so yes we live for the church. We take the Jesus template of how to live and apply it to how we respond to the church. Love, care, grace, forgiveness. Does that change the way we think of church? It has to be the object of our affection.

### 16-17 see potential

2Co 5:16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We no longer judge sinfulness but we look at people for their potential in Jesus.

### 18-19 reconciling people to Him

2Co 5:18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 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.

Part of the potential we see in people is their reconciliation to Jesus. We may see people as sinners, even as lost causes but we need to look through Jesus eyes. Jesus died for all. He see's the possibilities of reconciliation, He see's the possibility and potential of our lives but also of those hopeless causes. Notice it says Jesus reconciled Himself to the world. MM interesting template for us to follow. That means we follow the example of Jesus to practice being reconciled. The thing with this is – Jesus didn't do anything wrong – so our template is reconciling to people who do us wrong!! Oh crikey, that's a tough one. Notice it says not counting their trespasses against them. MM interesting template to follow. And get this. Entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Oh crikey, we are in the business of reconciling people to Jesus and to others, as well as to ourselves.

### 19-21 ambassadors

2Co 5:20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2Co 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.

Ambassadors – What does an ambassador do??

Well in our modern sense it is : an accredited diplomat sent by a state as its permanent representative in a foreign country.

That is us spiritually – accredited by God to represent Him in different places.

Notice – God makes His appeal through us – We do the talking for Him.

Here is our plea – be reconciled to God.

Reconciled = restore friendly relations between.

So we have the task of telling people to restore their relationship with God.

Yep,

Notice to the last bit there.

**2Co 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.

That was God's process – He sent Jesus to take our place so the reconciliation could be made good.

We represent Jesus but also as we said last week - we are His ambassadors

We re-present Jesus – we are His spokes people.

**Represent and re-present**