

“Gospel Motivation”

2 Corinthians 5:11–15

26 January 2025

1. “One person’s fanatic is another person’s fan.” That is, it is all about perspective. Some thought Paul was “looney” (v.13).

In what ways do non-Christians view Christians as “odd”? Have you been labelled “crazy” for your commitment to Christ? Share.

In what ways *should* we be “odd”?

2. What does the Bible mean when it speaks of the believer’s “fear of the Lord”?

Sinclair Ferguson wrote: “Sometimes we mistakenly think that what most causes awe and reverence before God is terror of his holiness, the fear of his law, and the threat of judgment and condemnation. But it is not so. Pure and intense love has more power to effect awe, even gracious fear, than all terror”

Agree? Disagree? Why?

3. In vv. 14–15, we see Paul’s controlling motivation.

In what ways does love, in other areas of life, motivate or “control” our behaviour?

Applying this to our walk with and service to the Lord, in what ways does love for him motivate us?

4. Verse 14 speaks of subjective love. That is, Paul knew that he was loved by Jesus Christ.

What does it mean that he “concluded” this?

What specifically did he “conclude”?

5. Discuss what is meant that “one has died for all, therefore all have died.”

In what sense did all who will be saved die when Jesus died?

Who are the “all”? Why can it *not* refer to everyone universally?

How does such a truth move us to love Jesus?

6. Discuss what is meant by “those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him [Jesus Christ]” (v. 15)?

This is true freedom. In what ways does self-restraint for the Christian lead to the experience of true freedom?

7. Practically, how can we keep this love alive in our hearts?

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