

Ministry of Reconciliation

2Corinthians 5:11-21

Read Speaking for God is a perilous position to be in. Cult leaders do it, rash & brash pastors & evangelist do it. We are to speak as an **oracle**, very words, **utterances** of God, God speaking thru you. 1Pet 4:11 But *“...a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded.....is to be put to death.” Dt 18:20 NT Matt 12:36 But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.* In our text God commands us to speak as His representatives, His words to lost souls.

11 Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

Therefore points back to judgment :9,10 rewards & wrath. *Oido* – intuitive, perceive w/ mind, know it's going to happen – when leave this life 1st on agenda is God's judgment—*Bema* for rewards or *Great white throne* for eternal separation. *Terror, panic*-fools says no God-*terrifying to fall into hands living God*. For believers a reverence, fear of displeasing.

So *persuade*, convince, urge to believe what is true about God & self...all sinned....gift of God.

Manifest - made transparent to God, no hidden agenda or false motives—clear conscience. Also trusting & expecting it is true w/ you as well. We became visible & an open book to you Corinthians—we have nothing to hide and joined ourselves w/ you in mind, heart & conscience.

12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, that you may have an answer for those who take pride in appearance, and not in heart.

Not commending-foolishly trying to prove ourselves like others-but laying out our lives so you stand w/ us. Get you on our side--not self-promoting. But like father to child—proud in a good way--results of our ministry.

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Appearances—face, countenance--those w/ high head, pride, glory above others--things the Lord hates ‘a proud look’ *Pr 6:17*. **My gold ring**

Heart-inner self, moral being, center of what makes us tick, true self *Pr 4:23*

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For out of it flow the springs/issues of life. As a man thinks in his heart so is he...23:7 where your treasure is there will your heart be also *Mat 6:21* Three things ruin ministries Gold, Girls & Glory

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

Beside ourselves--out of our mind, crazy for Jesus—Jesus **Mk 3:21** **But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, “He is out of His mind.” NKJ Acts 26:24** **And while Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad.”** **Bill you really flipped, what happened to you—going thru a phase, you’ll come down** *Matt 10:36* **a man’s enemies will be those of his own household**

Didn’t say Paul was mad when persecuting & killing Christians but becoming one of them--they say he’s mad. **DL Moody called crazy Moody**

Sound mind--self control, sane, proper balance, hold it together to bring to Christ. Insanity is leaving God---Prodigal ‘when he came to his senses’ *Lk 15:17-*

14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Love of Christ seen by His sacrificial death for us..while yet sinners. **Rom 5:7-** **For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ---We love Him because He first loved us** **1Jn 4:19**

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Love agape—a giving love, preferring others, esteem above self, holy affection for people. Giving not taking—***‘for God so loved...he gave’***. First work of Holy Spirit in us is Christ’s love.

Controls—steers us, compels, to hold fast—***in marriage sticking together***, holds us in check to do God’s will. Not guilt, glory, works, pressure—but **love**

Concluded—convinced of this, judged to be true, decided upon a course of action. ***One died***--Jesus died for all sinners ***‘God wills that none perish but all come to repentance 2Pet 3:9’***

All died—Gal 2:20 ***“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.***

Died to self that we might live for Christ. **Rom 6:3**—Selfish life replaced w/ self-less living for Christ & will of God

16 Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

We don’t see or relate to each other after our old flesh life but now after our life in the spirit--born again. **Camacho to church ‘I don’t know after flesh but spirit’**
Jesus is risen and our life w/ Him is a spiritual life no longer just w/ Him now He is in us in power of Holy Spirit. Fleshly reminiscing on past gone by, melancholy for old times and things is not God’s plan for us but work of Holy Spirit now in power and ministry reaching a lost world.

17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

If we are in Christ there will be evidence of that fact. Old life of sin—hang ups, what we messed up passes, fades & new life emerges—in image of Christ.

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Old life no longer dominates but replaced by new life God put in us as yield to power of Holy Spirit. **New comes out of old surfboard renovation in cafe**

*18 Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not **counting** their **trespasses** against them, and He has **committed** to us the word of reconciliation.*

Sin separated us from God but the cross reconciled, brought us back into favor and fellowship w/ God.

Not counting-imputing—banking term-**to put to account** our sins on Christ on cross & God imputed, put to our account Jesus righteousness.

Trespasses—**falling away after being close**, stepping over the line, lapses, side-slipping down a wave

Committed to us-put in our hands, set before us--God's plan for sinners to be **reconciled**--to change from enemy to friend—sin for forgiveness--separation to reconciliation. Breaking God's holy, pure, righteous law fulfilled on cross so counting/imputating is now possible for all who believe

Ps 19: 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

Since God did this for us we are now His spokesmen to bring reconciliation of others. Gods will is to make peace w/ sinners & He has given to us the message of reconciliation—restoring back to favor

Our record is clean, we are forgiven David sinned horribly **Ps 32; 51**

As soon as he confessed he was forgiven. Oh how happy...not license

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*20 Therefore, we are **ambassadors** for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we **beg** you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we **might become** the righteousness of God in Him.*

Ambassadors – privileged person w/ message from God to sinners. Highly esteemed authorized to speak for God. Two communities in Rome senatorial-peaceful, surrendered & submitted to Rome & imperial disorderly & dissenting-rebel if could. Rome sent ambassadors to imperial regions to insure revolts not break out.

Believers are God ambassadors going into a hostile world in rebellion to God w/ a message of reconciliation--peace w/ God thru cross.

Ambassador don't back down when carrying out the Kings edict. We speak for Jesus.

He knew not sin--what a shock to Jesus when Father laid upon Him all the sins of humanity. What horrible things in news do we see? These God put on His Son...*For God so loved the world.....Jn 3:16 --- Is 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Now God imputes the righteousness of Jesus Christ to us. Not conjured up on own *2Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Beg-impassioned cry, close up and personal, come near w/ arm around because you lack & need to be saved, **urgent care**/appeal

Might become--transition from one thing to another—emerge from one condition to another-idea of motion, movement, growth. Our future our destiny