

## 2 Corinthians 5:12-17 – A New Creation.

### I. (12-14) The love of God compels us.

Paul is giving the Corinthians a chance to boast about him; as a way of countering those who attacked his ministry to them as an Apostle. Paul didn't have an impressive appearance, though was Holy Spirit empowered internally.

There are some **who boast in appearance and not in heart**, others boast in their fruit.

**1 Samuel 16:7** - *The Lord does not see as a man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

Some in Corinth probably thought Paul was out of his mind because he seemed content with a life of simplicity, pain, trials, and discomfort if it brought glory to God.

What drives us to act like we do? Why do we want to impress others? (we call that branding-putting out a certain image). Many work so hard at impressing those who don't really care or like them, b'se of pride. Not so with Paul, and shouldn't be the case with us. The love of God, the crucifixion and the resurrection has to be the only reason we serve.

**Galatians 6:14** - *But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

**1 John 4:19** - *We love Him because He first loved us.*

**1 John 2:1** - *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*

“The love of Christ had pressed Paul's energies into one force, turned them into one channel, and then driven them forward with a wonderful force, till he and his fellows had become a mighty power for good, ever active and energetic.” (Spurgeon)

### II. (16-19) A new creation.

· *We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen (**2 Corinthians 4:18**).*

- Our *earthly tent* will be destroyed, but we will have a new body, *eternal in the heavens* (**2 Corinthians 5:1**).
- We *walk by faith, not by sight* (**2 Corinthians 5:7**).
- We do not *glory in appearance*, but we *glory in heart* (**2 Corinthians 5:12**)

**Isaiah 43:18-19** - *“Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

**Jeremiah 31:31-33** - *“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— “not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. “But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

**Ezekiel 36:26** - *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

**Luke 22:19-20** - *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.*

Jesus Christ regenerates those who come to Him. The saved are changed into a **new creation**. How are we a new creation; death to life, darkness to light, lost to found, wicked to righteous, blind to sight, sickness to health...from earth to glory.

**Hebrews 13:20-21** - *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*