

## **Sermon: Working together with Him.**

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:10-6:1

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Pastor S.C. Brown

### **Review:**

Last week we talked about doing the possible.

We have to pray and share the good news....that which is possible... and God will do the impossible.

Well, has God really decided to use us?

Are we really an important part of the plan?

### **Introduction:**

What would you do if you got a phone call today from a very prestigious company. They say, "We want you to work with us!"

**Apple** calls you.

Or **Harvard University** called you.

**Oxford** called you.

Great benefits.

Long contract.

How privileged you would feel!

Or better yet, what if you got a call from your home country....and the leader of the country said to you,

"We want you to be our **Ambassador** for such and such country."

Would you feel honored?  
Would you tell all your friends?  
Post it on social media?  
Would you take the job?  
Surely we'd all at least consider it.

Well, consider this morning the reality of 2 Corinthians 5:10-6:1.

Who do Christians get the privilege of working for?

Let's read starting in verse 14.

**14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 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. 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. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on**

behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 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. 6:1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

What is God doing in the world?  
What's God working on?

verse 19 tells us.

**In Christ God was *reconciling* the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.**

Now, there is no need to *reconcile* if everything is ok.  
But everything is not OK is it?  
There are *trespasses*.

**Where I come from in Tennessee we have a lot of farm land and private property.**

**There are signs everywhere that say "No trespassing". Meaning -you don't belong here.**

**You don't have permission to be here.**

**This is my land.**

**Sometimes you'll see signs that say,**

**"Trespassers will be shot without warning."**

We have trespassed against God.

We don't belong.

He himself and his kingdom is holy property and we can't go there and don't belong there.

But in Jesus Christ, God is reconciling the world to himself.

Making us able to go on his property; into his presence; to have a relationship with him.

How did he reconcile people?

Look at verse 21.

**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.**

So, God wants to reconcile the world to himself.

But there's a problem.

Trespasses.

Sins.

Offenses against him.

What does God do?

He puts our sins on Jesus.

Transfers the guilt and offense over to him.

Punishes Christ and not us.

Verse 15 says, **“for their sake he died and was raised.”**

He died to take the sin away and was raised by God the Father due to his 'having no sin'.

It just wasn't right for him to stay dead.

He was innocent.

So, God raised him up.

And God transfers Christ's righteousness over to all who believe.

He gets our sin.

We get his righteousness.

We then become a new creation, a new person. Look at verse 17.

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

The trespasses are gone.

We are now able; we are now welcome to enter God's kingdom.

**That is the good news.**

**That is what we call, the gospel.**

God reconciling sinners to himself- through Jesus Christ's death as a substitute.

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But that's not the whole story.

God wants us to do something.

He wants us to work with him.

What does he want us to do?

## **1. WE ARE TO BE CONTROLLED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST.**

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

What does Paul mean when he says, “the love of Christ controls us”?

This isn't our love for Christ but his love for us.

*It is a love that takes possession of us so forcefully that it compels us to love in return.*

He loved us...and out of gratitude for his love...we are to LOVE.

Do we love people?

I mean really love people?

Love them like Christ loved us?

## **2. WE ARE TO NOT LIVE FOR OURSELVES, BUT FOR CHRIST.**

**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.**

Our lives are not ours!

You were bought with a price.

We are dead.

You are dead.

You have no life, but Christ.

Live for him, not for yourselves.

How much has Christ been on your mind today?

## **3. WE ARE TO SEE PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY.**

**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.**

The literal meaning here is 'regard no one according to the flesh'.

What it means though is...that we see no one from a human point of view but an eternal point of view.

2 types of people: new creations and those who need to be reconciled to God!

2 types of people: brothers and sisters and those who need to be adopted.

#### **4. WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST.**

**18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

Now, we know this and we've heard this many times. But have we really taken it in?

The king of the universe has appointed us to his cabinet.

- Minister of Reconciliation
- Ambassador
- Making his appeal through us.
- Entrusting to us his message.
- Imploring/begging/ pleading with people on behalf of Christ.

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 I want everyone to take out their phone right now and let's do something very strange. Let's take a selfie!  
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You see that person right there in your phone.  
 You know who God has appointed Ambassador in your village?

You know who God has appointed Minister of Reconciliation in your building?

Do you know through whom God is making his appeal to those at your workplace?

YOU!

You're it.

He has entrusted the message to you and me.

He is begging and pleading with people through us.

**We are to be controlled by the love of Christ.**

**We are not to live for ourselves but for him.**

**We are to see people differently than we used to see them.**

**We are Christ's Ambassadors.**

**The kingdom's Ambassadors.**

-WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER WITH HIM. (6:1)



## **5. Lastly, WE ARE TO PERSUADE OTHERS OUT OF THE FEAR OF GOD.**

**10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. 11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.**

We will appear before Christ and receive according to what we've done.

Not our sins, those were judged in Christ.

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

But, Christ will reward us according to what we've done and what we've not done.

Paul's response to being judged by Christ is to do one thing.....persuade people to be reconciled to God.

To plead with them.

That's our task.

That will always be the task of every believer on the planet.

We are working together with HIM.

May he help us to see the privilege of that calling.

Imagine if we did. How would we live?

Imagine if we lived for ourselves...zero%.

What if we really saw ourselves as AMBASSADORS!

God has placed you where you are for a reason.

Do you believe that?

You are there to work together with him in reaching people.

He'll do the impossible. We have to do the possible.

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Some of you in this church today have yet to give your life to Jesus Christ.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for you.

He died on the cross for your trespasses.

He was raised to life again and is alive and will come back and judge the world.

He will make you a new creation. Give you a new life. The old will pass away. You'll be a new person. He'll change you.

Which side will you choose?