

A Pattern of Service

Stanley Toussaint

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 5:11-21.
- B. There is nothing more revolutionary than the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. Paul was radically changed by the gospel.
- D. With the gospel, there are three new things.

II. There is a new motive.

- A. In the fear of God, the believer sways men.
- B. This means that Christians persuade men of their integrity.
- C. The love of Christ constrained Paul—people thought he was crazy. We need more people who are crazy like Paul.
- D. There is provisional, positional, and practical death in Christ. Christ represented the whole world in His death provisionally.
- E. Paul's new motive was the love of Christ.

III. There is a new perspective.

- A. This means there is a new outlook—believers no longer assess by external standards.
- B. “In Christ” there is security.

IV. There is a new ministry.

- A. God gives credentials.
- B. Christ paid for our sins so that we might become righteousness in Him. (Isaiah 53)

V. Conclusion.

- A. We need to recognize that we are motivated by Christ's love.
- B. We need to recognize that we are ambassadors of Christ also.

Application questions:

1. How can one be motivated by the love of Christ and the fear of God simultaneously?

2. What does it mean that the love of Christ “constrains?”

3. How does it help to know that ministry credentials come from God? What does this mean?
