



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 5:11-15
March 29, 2026

next week: Special Easter Service

Questions for the Community

What does the Bible say? (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. Read the passage out loud together. What stands out to you? What is clear? What is confusing? What tone is Paul writing in?
2. What are the driving motives for Paul in this passage? What do they drive him and constrain him to do or be specifically?
3. Paul fears the Lord. How is his life different from his critics who fear man? (vss. 11-12)
4. In vss. 14-15, Paul speaks of the conclusion he has made. What is it? Unpack the rest of what he says there. Why is that so important?
5. From the surrounding context (2 Cor 5:9–10), what future reality shapes Paul's present actions?

What does it mean? (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

6. What are we to persuade others to (vs. 11 and see vss. 14-15)? How specifically does the fear and love of God come into play with this?
7. Why do you think Paul holds both fear of the Lord and love of Christ together as motivations? Is there a tension there for you? Explain.
8. Verse 14 says "the love of Christ controls us." What does it look like to be controlled (or compelled) by love rather than guilt, pressure, or obligation?
9. What does it practically mean that "those who live might no longer live for themselves"?

What do I do? (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

10. Where are you most tempted to people-please instead of God-please when it comes to sharing your faith?
11. What would it look like for you to "press play" this week in: **Worship** (your relationship with God) **Community** (relationships with others) **Share** (evangelism)?
12. What is one step of repentance you need to take to move from inward-focused living to outward mission?
13. From Sunday, "Our greatest getting is giving." Where do you need to shift from consuming to contributing?
14. What is one practical way you can **initiate** a spiritual conversation this week instead of **waiting** for one?
15. Easter is coming...who can you intentionally invite? Pray over these precious souls. Invite fear of God and love of Christ to control you this week.