

I. Read II Corinthians 5:13-15

- A. In verse 13, the Apostle Paul alludes to the fact that he has had ecstatic experiences (II Corinthians 12:2; Acts 22:17-18). Though these experiences were significant to him, he did not use them as the basis of any claim to special or super-spiritual status. In fact, he is calling the Corinthians' attention to the need for personal service and ministry rather than being concerned with status or position. Professor Simon Kistemaker writes:

“With these lines Paul is launching an attack against his opponents by taking the sting out of their boast. He had a divine revelation when he was caught up to the third heaven, but this vision did nothing for his ministry to God's people...Paul was not interested in promoting himself but in advancing the church that he served without allowing any distraction. Thus, by serving Jesus, he followed in the footsteps of the Lord.”

Read John 13:15-16 and discuss whether the message of Scripture supports Kistemaker's explanation for Paul's service and ministry.

- B. In verse 14, Paul writes of “the love of Christ” controlling him and his associates. What do you think he meant by “the love of Christ?” (Read I John 4:16, 19, 20, 21; 1 John 3:1, 10-11.)

If we say that *we love Jesus* on the one hand, but live in a manner that is at odds with our profession, what is the problem?

If we believe that Christ loves us, what should we expect from Him? (Read Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 12:5-11; Romans 8:28-30.)

- C. Read Galatians 2:20 and relate it to 2 Corinthians 5:14b-15.

D. Below is the *ordo salutis* (order of salvation). See if you can match the scripture reference with the appropriate point. A few have more than one scripture verse that can be applied.

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| ___ a. | universal call | ___ f. | adoption |
| ___ b. | effectual call | ___ g. | sanctification |
| ___ c. | regeneration | ___ h. | perseverance |
| ___ d. | faith and repentance | ___ i. | glorification |
| ___ e. | justification | | |

1. Colossians 3:4
2. Romans 8:30
3. Mark 1:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:13
4. Philippians 1:6
5. Romans 5:9
6. Matthew 22:14
7. Romans 8:15-16
8. John 10:27
9. John 1:12-13
10. John 3:3
11. John 10:28
12. John 6:44

E. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15 and talk about some positive implications of what it might mean to “no longer live for” yourself as a believer. (Think in particular as a husband or wife, parent, employer, employee, member of a church, etc.)