

## Reset – Part 6

### Service: Everybody is a Minister

**2 Corinthians 5:14-20** - *For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; v.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. v.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.*

*v.17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. v.18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; v.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. v.20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Defining the Word “Minister”

Diakonos – to serve or service

It is translated 18 times as “ministry” and 16 times as the word “serve” or “service.”

- 1) The word was used with preaching, teaching, training.
- 2) It was also used for the seven Spirit-filled men who were appointed to serve the widows and distribute food daily to the hungry.
- 3) It is same word found in Mark 10:45 which tells us that Jesus “came not to be served, but to serve...”

Don't think office; don't think clergy. The ministry is not to be limited to small group of professional preachers. In fact a true pastor-teacher-elder is to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry” (Ephesians 4:11–12).

A Minister Must...

- 1) Be Controlled by Love

“For the love of God controls us...” 2 Corinthians 2:14

- a) Give up control!

- i) This commitment of Paul to turn over complete control of his life to Jesus flies in the face of everything that we modern-day people know to be good for us.

We must make our own decisions, chart our own course, and set our own sights on what is important to us.

Every reasonable person knows that you and I just simply can't turn over control of our life to another person. If we were to do that, then we might not get what we want out of life, right?

Giving control of your life to God will be the greatest decision of your life!

- b) Be motivated by love.

Everything that Paul did was based upon Jesus' love for him.

- i) Every decision that was rendered came from Jesus, the One who controlled Paul.
- ii) Every word that was spoken was spoken as a result of Jesus' control of Paul.

- c) We must no longer be motivated by the flesh.

- i) Live to please Christ and not self.

*v.15 (NIV) – and he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

- ii) Look at people from a heavenly perspective.

*v.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.*

*Look at this verse in the Living Paraphrased: So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now!*

We are now called to look at people the way Christ looks at them... He looks at them through His eyes of Love!

- 2) Major on Reconciliation

**2 Corinthians 5:18, 19** - *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; v.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.*

a) To be reconciled means to end the hostility between us and God...to come to peace.

b) Reconciliation is all God!

“All this is from God... that is, in Christ God was reconciling...”

c) The ministry of reconciliation is a simple message.

i) Reconciliation is both an accomplished fact (v.18) and a continuing process (v.19).

ii) Reconciliation is not something WE do; it is something God has accomplished.

iii) The ministry of reconciliation is not telling people to make peace with God, but telling them that God has made peace with the world.

The gospel is not good advice, but good news! The good news is “in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself.”

3) Act as an Ambassador

**v.20** - *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

a) Ambassadors are official representatives of one country to another.

b) Our life should be lived as if it is an appealing message from Christ.

c) Ambassadors represent...

i) Peace, not hostility.

ii) Joy, not judgment.

iii) The little things matter!