

**Read 2 Corinthians 5: 11-15**

**1.** The centre of this section is surely verse 14 in which Paul writes 'Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced'. Paul is trying to explain why he speaks and acts as he does.

**1a.** We joke 'Love makes the world go round' but when you love someone, as a human being, mother, father, son, daughter, friend, can you think of any force that impacts what you do and how you respond to situations more powerfully than love?

**1b.** Can you think of examples when, because of the love you have for someone, you did something that you wouldn't normally do?

**1c.** How about the other way round; convinced that someone loved you, did you feel 'compelled' to respond to their words or actions in a way outside your norm or uncomfortable? Do you have an example?

**2.** The word 'convinced' suggests a process of knowledge/debate/understanding/decision.

**2a.** In terms of being convinced that Jesus loves you, can you think of any reason or ways in which Paul might be more or less 'convinced' than you are?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 6: 2**

**3.** 'A new creation, the old has gone, the new has come'. All of us have experienced major change in our lives, perhaps it was leaving home, starting a first job, the arrival of a first child.

**3a.** What do you remember of such an event in your life? What were your feelings then; excitement, challenge, fear?

**3b.** Paul is telling the Corinthians (and us) that the old order of things is now past; God has done something completely new in/through Christ Jesus. In response, what are we (who are 'convinced') to become and do?

**3c.** What do you understand 'be reconciled to God' to mean?

**Read Matthew 28: 16 – end.**

**4.** Matthew ends his gospel with the Great Commission = Go, Make, Baptise, Teach. These are all verbs = 'doing' words, as I recall my English teacher saying. Just taking the first two of these, 'go' and 'make':-

**4a.** What are the essential ingredients contained within fulfilling the command 'to go'?

**4b.** 'Make' sounds a bit forceful. What then comprises our role in 'make disciples'?