

Life in all its fullness



## Participating in his mission - Study 10

Readings – Matthew 28: 16-20 & 2 Corinthians 5: 11 - 6: 2

The word mission has several meanings but for most of us it means something more suited for others to do and not me! Jesus would disagree.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5: 11 – 6: 2** Last week we looked at suffering and made an assessment of our 'accounts' with God, and how the credit side (all that God has provided) by far outweighs the debit side (the costs of being a Christian). This week we look at how we should respond.

1a. Would you say that God, having done all that he has for us, expects something from us in return? Is our response to his love voluntary?

1b. What differences can you identify between an ordinary relationship and a truly loving relationship?

1c Verse 14 'For Christ's love compels us'. Thinking of your family, friends and loved ones, can you identify with a response 'love compels us'? Do you have examples?

2. Paul says that when we recognize and accept what Christ has done for us, we become changed, 'a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come'; it is our love for Jesus that 'compels us' to put the old self behind and start anew. We become Christ's 'ambassadors'.

2a. I feel ambassadors is such an appropriate word for what Paul is trying to convey. Think about foreign embassies and their ambassadors. What sort of mix of things would you imagine takes up their time? What is the objective of what they say and do?

2b. Is your day to day activities really substantially different from your answer to question 2a?

2c. As Christians, perhaps our day to day could already be described as 'mission'. What sort of focus should we bring to our daily activity to truly perform the ambassador role?

**Read Matthew 28: 16-20** To paraphrase this passage – once the disciples worshipped him (accepted him as divine – truly loved him) they wanted to respond by doing whatever pleased him, so he told them what they should do, and reassured them that responding in this way would result in his presence with them always and forever.

3. If we really believe the Christian life to be the best possible life; that the gospel really is good news, there can be no sensible reason why we cannot be ambassadors for Christ in all we do. Discuss!