

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

11 – THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION (2 CORINTHIANS 5:11-6:2)

I. Paul's Motivation for Service (2 Corinthians 5:11-15)

A. Reverence for God (2 Corinthians 5:11a)

- Paul was motivated to share Christ because of the coming judgment.

B. Paul's Status (2 Corinthians 5:11b)

- Just as God recognized who Paul was, he hopes that the Corinthians would.

C. Paul's Sensitivity (2 Corinthians 5:12)

- Paul was sensitive about commending himself to them.
- The Corinthians should have more than enough pride in him.

D. Paul's Response to Criticism (2 Corinthians 5:13)

- Paul points out that if he is crazy, it is for God.
- Paul also points out that if he is sane, it is for their sake.

E. Compelled by the Love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

- Paul tells them that he is compelled by the love of Christ.
- Because of the death of Christ, we can no longer live just for ourselves.

II. Reconciliation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

A. A Change in Outlook (2 Corinthians 5:16)

- Paul could no longer see people from a human perspective.
- He had to see them from the perspective of the cross.

B. A New Creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)

- A person, who is in Christ, has become a new creature.

C. God's Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

- God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus.
- We then become ministers of God's reconciliation.

God's Abundant Grace: Second Corinthians

- Because of reconciliation, God has not reckoned our trespasses against us.

D. Ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- We are ambassadors for Christ, through which God speaks to this world.

E. Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:21)

- The sinless Jesus became sin for our salvation.
- Jesus did this so that we might become righteous.

III. The Appeal for Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 6:1-2)

A. Paul's Plea (2 Corinthians 6:1)

- Paul is urging the Corinthians to take the grace of God seriously.
- He wants them to live up to the gospel's demands.

B. The Basis for the Plea (2 Corinthians 6:2)

- Salvation is God's initiative.
- The quotation from Isaiah 49:8 underscored the fact that salvation is God's initiative.
- Paul urged the Corinthians not to spurn that grace.