

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 5:12-21)

1. Should we be more concerned about how we appear to be or what is in our hearts?

The heart: *“For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart”* (II Corinthians 5:12).

- Not commending oneself (II Corinthians 10:12 and II Corinthians 10:18).
- They should glory on behalf of Paul and Timothy for their work (Proverbs 27:2 and II Corinthians 3:1).
- It is the heart (Psalms 73:1, Jeremiah 32:39-41, Luke 6:45, and Luke 8:15), not the outward appearance that can be deceptive that is the greatest concern (Matthew 23:27-28).
- That being said, it would be wrong to say that way people see in us physically is not of any importance (Matthew 5:16, I Timothy 2:9-10, Titus 2:7-8, and I Peter 3:1-4).

2. Whether Paul was reportedly beside himself or sober, was his state of mind for himself or for others?

He was minded for the service to God and brethren rather than himself: *“For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause”* (II Corinthians 5:13).

- Paul had been accused of being beside himself, but he was really sober (Acts 26:24-25).
- Regardless, it was for them (II Timothy 2:10) and God that they were what they were (Philippians 3:8).

3. Is it correct to say that Christ died for us [Christians] because we were all spiritually dead?

Yes: *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead”* (II Corinthians 5:14).

- The love of Christ controls us (John 14:21-23 and Acts 4:19-20).
- Sin, being lost, certainly means you are spiritually dead (Luke 15:24, Luke 15:32, Ephesians 2:1-5, and Colossians 2:13).

4. Should we live to ourselves or to Christ?

Live to Christ: *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again”* (II Corinthians 5:15).

- Christ died for all (John 1:29, John 4:42, I John 2:1-2, and I John 4:14).
- Not living to self (Romans 6:13, Romans 14:7-9, I Corinthians 6:20, and Galatians 2:20).

5. Should our relationships be carnal or spiritually based?

Spiritually: *"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more"* (II Corinthians 5:16).

- **Romans 8:1-4** and **John 8:15**; cf. **Psalms 26:4-5**, **Jeremiah 15:17**, **II Corinthians 6:14-18**, and **James 4:4**.

6. Once in Christ, are you still the same person you use to be?

NO: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (II Corinthians 5:17).

- Being in Christ, means you've been converted (**Galatians 3:26-29**).
- In Christ, you are to be a new person (**Romans 6:4-6**, **Ephesians 4:22-24**, **Colossians 3:1-10**, **Titus 3:3-8**, and **I Peter 4:1-5**).

7. Who chose to see that man was reconciled to the Lord?

Our Heavenly Father: *"(18) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation"* (II Corinthians 5:18-19).

- **Romans 3:24-26**, **Romans 5:6-10**, **Ephesians 2:10-16**, and **Colossians 1:19-22**.

8. What part did Paul play in reconciling those in Corinth to God?

As an ambassador [representative; Strong's # 4243] in the place of Christ: *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God"* (II Corinthians 5:20).

- **John 20:21**, **I Corinthians 14:37**, **Ephesians 6:19-20**, **I Thessalonians 2:13**, and **I Thessalonians 4:8**.
- By Paul telling them to be reconciled, that means they had departed from the Lord (cf. **I Corinthians 7:10-11**).

9. Through whom are we made the righteousness of God?

Christ is under discussion contextually (v.20), and in this context we read: *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (II Corinthians 5:21).

- Let's be clear that Jesus is the SIN SACRIFICE (**Ephesians 5:2** and **Hebrews 10:10-12**).
- He did not become sin in a literal sense (**I John 3:5**).
- We are made righteous through Christ (**Romans 5:17-19**, **Philippians 3:9**, and **Revelation 1:5-6**).