

Christ's Love Controls Us **February 9, 2025**

2 Corinthians 5:14-21, *“Christ’s love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”*

Reconcile: to restore to favor, to exchange hostility for friendship

Ephesians 4:29-32, *“Don’t use abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement (and give grace) to those who hear them. ³⁰ Do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, and all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”*

1 John 2:1-2, *“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.”*

1 John 1:8, *“If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.”*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21, Romans 1:28-32.

The Consequences of Sin Occur:

- 1. Naturally**
- 2. Spiritually**

2 Samuel 12:13, *“Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.”*

Psalm 32:3-7, *“When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, I groaned all day long. ⁴ Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. ⁵ Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. ⁶ Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgment. ⁷ For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.”*

2 Samuel 12:20, *“David arose from the ground, washed, anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he came into the house of the Lord and worshipped.”*

Hebrews 11:6, *“It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”*

Hebrews 4:16, *“Let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”*

Luke 19:10, *“I have come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

Acts 2:37-38, *“What should we do (about our sin)?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

The Life Giving Benefits of Baptism Include:

- 1. Forgiveness of Sins**
- 2. Receive the Holy Spirit**

In **Romans 6:3-4**, we read, *“Have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.”*

- 3. Joined and United into One with Christ**
- 4. Die with Jesus**
- 5. Raised with Jesus by the Powerful Works of God**
- 6. Receive New Life**

Galatians 3:27, *“All who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.”*

7. Wear Jesus Christ Like Clothing

1 Peter 3:21, *“Baptism now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It (baptism) is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”*

- 8. Baptism Now Saves You**
- 9. Baptism Produces a Clean Conscience**