**The Love of Christ Compels Us**

*2 Corinthians 5:14-15*

**Introduction**

1. The love of Christ displayed on the cross is powerful to accomplish many great things. (remission of sins, reconciliation, imparting hope, joy, etc.)
2. Perhaps the most impressive thing the love of Christ does is that it “compels us.”
	1. Compel – *synechō* – to provide impulse for some activity. (BDAG)
	2. It has immense changing power through its motivation.
	3. **(v. 15)** – namely to live for Christ from the point of initial salvation.
3. As we observe the various characteristics displayed by Jesus in His shown love of His death on the cross we are motivated to live the same way before Him and God.
4. The Love of Christ Compels Us To:
5. Devotion
	1. **Hebrews 10:5-10** – Psalm 40:6-8 attributed to Christ and His devotion to God’s will in His personal sacrifice.
		1. Christ came into the world for the express purpose of dying sacrificially in the body He entered.
			1. He did not view His body for anything other than an instrument to carry out His Father’s will. (**John 9:4** – focused on the Father’s will)
			2. To this He was devoted.
		2. One of the many “better” things about the sacrifice of Christ was that it was done willingly out of devotion to God. (Contrary to that of animals.)
	2. **Psalm 40:6-8** – After discussing the deliverance by God in trial, the Psalmist shows his understanding of his purpose, and his devotion to it.
		1. Hebrews 10:5-10 quotes the LXX (authorized translation used by Jesus).
		2. Most significant difference – ***“My ears You have opened”*** – literally in the Hebrew – “ears you have dug for me” (GOD MADE OUR EARS – hollow of ear dug out by God) (**cf. Proverbs 20:12** – God made the ear and eye)
			1. ***“ears Thou hast prepared for me”*** (Young’s Literal Translation)
			2. I.e. prepared for a specific purpose.
		3. **(v. 7)** – something said in regard to what he heard from the Law about him. (Not specifically him necessarily, but about man.)
		4. **(v. 8)** – namely, to do God’s will.
			1. “within my heart” – it is his innermost focus and contemplation.
			2. He is devoted to God’s will.
		5. Ears, as well as the rest of the body, given/prepared for us to do God’s will.
			1. I.e. sacrifice and offering is not what you desire for us, but especially you have given our body to devote to hearing and obeying your word.
			2. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – body for the glory of God.
	3. Christ realized why He was on earth and devoted Himself to it. Such should compel us to do the same.
6. Obedience
	1. **Hebrews 5:7-8** – Christ experienced the fulness of humanity in the most bitter way, but obeyed His Father regardless.
		1. **(v. 7)** – describing His prayers in the garden. (s)
			1. **cf. Luke 22:41-44** – emotional prayer of distress
			2. Was heard – **John 11:41-42** – Father always heard Him.
			3. NOTE: The text does not say God removed the cup, but heard Him.
			4. **Mark 14:41-42** – He took action, and went to fulfill the command of the Father.
		2. (**v. 8)** – was obedient as a Son.
			1. “though” – *kaiper*; and indeed, i.e. nevertheless or notwithstanding. (Strong) (He prayed for deliverance, nevertheless He obeyed.)
			2. **Philippians 2:8** – obedient to the point of death.
	2. **Hebrews 5:9** – became author of salvation to those who follow in His steps of obedience.
		1. We must obey like Jesus!
		2. **Philippians 2:12-16** – we do God’s will like Jesus, without complaining and disputing.
7. Abstinence
	1. **Romans 6:10-11** – Christ’s death to sin and ours.
		1. Context – showing that their obedience to the gospel meant death to sin (**Romans 6:1-2**) – absolute repentance.
		2. **Romans 6:5** – likeness of death (in baptism) likeness of resurrection (to newness of life to die no more).
		3. **(v. 10)** – Christ died “to sin,” i.e. on account of sin (**Romans 8:3**).
			1. Only once – **Hebrews 10:11-14** – once for all.
		4. **(v. 11)** – So we as Christians are dead to sin – i.e. not presenting our bodies to its service anymore, rather, to the service of God.
			1. **1 John 3:4-9** – the children of God don’t sin but are righteous as He is righteous.
			2. He came to destroy sin, not so that we can continue in it.
	2. **1 Thessalonians 5:21-22** – so, by the word of God, we test everything and abstain from the evil.
		1. Form – *eidos* – a variety of something, kind. (BDAG)
			1. “i.e. every sort or kind of evil.” (VINE)
			2. I.e. it is labeled as evil by God’s word, but we don’t pick and choose which to abstain from. We abstain from it all.
	3. **Romans 13:14** – we are motivated by the love of Christ to avoid even providing for the flesh.
		1. Christ didn’t consider sin to be something to flirt with.
		2. He considered it a dastardly enemy to destroy, and did so.
8. Sacrifice
	1. **Hebrews 9:24-26** – He sacrificed Himself and presented His blood in the presence of God for us.
	2. This powerful message of the cross should engender in us the value of self-sacrifice.
	3. **Romans 12:1-2** – based on the immense mercies of God in His gospel plan, we should live our lives sacrificially before Him.
		1. This is accomplished, not by any worldly standard, but by the standard of God.
		2. **Galatians 2:20** – we don’t live for ourselves, but for God in Christ.
		3. **Galatians 6:14** – crucified to the world.
		4. **Luke 14:26-27, 33** – forsake all to follow Jesus.
		5. Sacrifice self-desire for God’s desires.
	4. **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** – because Christ died for all due to their death in sin, we should live for Him instead of ourselves.
	5. **1 Peter 2:4-5** – we offer up spiritual sacrifices in service to God. (I.e. not just giving something up but OFFERING something up to God.)
9. Endurance
	1. **Hebrews 12:1-2** – we are called to endure as Jesus endured.
	2. Looking unto Jesus:
		1. “author and finisher of our faith”
			1. Author – *archēgos* – compound word – to begin, to lead.
				1. Originator and leader in faith.
				2. Preeminence.
			2. Finisher – *teleiōtēs* – one who brings something to a successful conclusion. (BDAG)
			3. He didn’t start it and leave it unfinished.
		2. “who for the joy that was set before Him”
			1. He kept His eye on the prize.
			2. He longed to be reunited with His Father, and to complete His work of redemption.
		3. “endured the cross”
			1. A long, grueling death.
			2. Came for this hour – **John 12:27**
			3. Did not come down from the cross – **Mark 15:29-30**
		4. “despising the shame”
			1. Was secure in who He was – **Philippians 2:5-8**
			2. Committed Himself to the righteous judge – **1 Peter 2:23**
		5. “sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” – He reached the goal through endurance – was rewarded.
	3. Let us run with endurance:
		1. “lay aside every weight”
			1. Might not be sinful itself, but won’t help.
			2. **1 Corinthians 6:12** – is it helful?
			3. **Matthew 5:29-30** – not sinful inherently, but might it cause you to sin?
		2. “and the sin which so easily ensnares us”
			1. **James 1:21** – lay it aside or the word has no power in you.
			2. Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.
		3. “and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”
			1. **Hebrews 10:36** – need of endurance.
			2. **Hebrews 6:11-12** – how all inherit the promises.

**Conclusion**

1. Out of love Christ laid His life down for us.
2. Such has the power to save us from our sins and grant us a confident hope of heaven.
3. Such has the power to move us toward wonderful acts of reciprocation toward Him.