

A Commendable Life

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Main idea: Living a commendable life means recognizing our identity in Christ and actively participating in His ministry of reconciliation, thus showing the transformative power of the gospel to the world.

Key Verses: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” **(2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV)**

Key Principles:

- The fear of the Lord motivates us to persuade others with the gospel, prioritizing God’s glory over self-commendation.
- Christ’s sacrificial love compels us to live for Him, dying to self and embracing His purpose for our lives.
- Being “in Christ” transforms our perspective, enabling us to see ourselves and others through the lens of the gospel rather than worldly standards.
- As Christ’s ambassadors, we are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation, proclaiming God’s forgiveness through Christ’s atoning work.
- The great exchange—Christ becoming sin for us to make us righteous—empowers us to live confidently as new creations.
- A commendable life reflects God’s reconciling work, impacting our relationships and witness to the world.

Discussion:

1. How does the reality of standing before Christ’s judgment seat influence your daily decisions? Share a moment when this awareness shaped your actions or words.
2. How does the truth that “one has died for all” challenge you to live for Christ rather than yourself? Has Christ’s love led you to make a selfless choice? When?
3. How can being “in Christ” help you overcome being judgmental? Share an example of how your identity in Christ has changed your view of yourself or others.
4. Why is reconciliation essential to a commendable life? Share a broken relationship where God is calling you to pursue reconciliation.
5. What does it mean to be Christ’s ambassador in your daily contexts? Have you ever felt God urging you to share the gospel or mend a relationship? How?
6. How does the “great exchange” give you confidence to live a commendable life? How can you anchor your identity in this exchange during life’s challenges?

Prayer:

- Focus on a deeper “fear of the Lord” to guide your actions and words.
- Pray for:
 - The love of Christ to compel you to live selflessly, prioritizing His purposes.
 - Your group to embrace their identity in Christ, seeing others with gospel hope.
 - Boldness to serve as Christ’s ambassadors, living out the ministry of reconciliation.

A Commendable Life
2 Corinthians 5:11-21

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| I. | Be <u>Compelled</u> by the <u>Love</u> of Christ. | 5:11-15 |
| 1. | <u>Fear</u> God with Holy <u>Awe</u> . | 5:11-13 |
| 2. | <u>Follow</u> Christ with Loving <u>Purpose</u> . | 5:14-15 |
| II. | Be <u>Comforted</u> by Your <u>Identity</u> in Christ. | 5:16-19 |
| 1. | See <u>Everyone</u> in a New <u>Light</u> . | 5:16-17 |
| 2. | Share <u>Everything</u> with a New <u>Hope</u> . | 5:18-19 |
| III. | Be <u>Committed</u> to Your <u>Calling</u> from Christ. | 5:20-21 |
| 1. | <u>Proclaim</u> God's <u>Message</u> with <u>Passion</u> . | 5:20 |
| 2. | <u>Remember</u> God's <u>Grace</u> with <u>Confidence</u> . | 5:21 |

NEXT WEEK:
A Distinct Community
2 Corinthians 6:1-13