**Name:** Pastor Rodney Mooney

**Series/Subject:** Identification With Christ

**Title:** The Love of Christ

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**Confession:** ***This is my Bible, the Living Word of God. I am, what the Word says I am. I have, what the Word says I have. I can do, everything the Word says I can do, and I will do it, in Jesus Name!***

**Text: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15** For **Christ’s love compels us**, because we are convinced that **One died for all, therefore all died**. And **He died for all**, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but **for Him** who died for them and was raised again.

**Introduction:** In a congregation distracted by doctrinal disputes, and attacking the false teachings that had crept in, Paul cuts through to the heart of the matter with a simple yet profound reminder: the Gospel is not a doctrine to be mastered but His Life to be lived in us. 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 calls us out of lukewarm religion into an all-consuming devotion fueled by Christ’s love for us and in us!

Today we will see three developments in this passage: how His love compels us, why His death grounds us, and what His resurrection empowers us to become. The life of the Apostle Paul is a great example of this passage.

1. **Driven by Unstoppable Love “For Christ’s love compels us”**
2. Love: agapé (ag-ah'-pay)affection, benevolence, divine love, love without end, love beyond measure
3. **1 John 4:8** “God IS Love.”
4. Agapé is the love of God that forgives the offender, welcomes the outsider, is unstoppable, unconditional, and endures through every trial.
5. It is a love that is not based on feelings. It says there is nothing you can do to make me love you any more or any less. I love you because I AM Love, and all I can do, is love! (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)
6. Compel: sunechó (soon-ekh'-o) to hold together, to compress, to arrest, to compel. It is a compound word from the word “sun” which means – companionship, closely identified together, joined close together, to be one with, in union, joint participation. It is a preposition which shows relationship. And the verb “echó” which means – to have, to hold.
7. Paul begins by declaring that it is not obligation or guilt driving us, but “sunechó” the overwhelming reality of Christ’s love that infills us, surrounds us, presses on us, or is like a current in a river that moves us along.
8. The same agapé of the Father that “sunechó” or compelled Him to send Jesus to take our place is the same agapé that is in us now.
9. **Romans 5:5** Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God **has been** poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
10. When we truly grasp that we are the object of His relentless agapé, our hearts shift from religious obligation and wholehearted devotion takes root.
11. Agapé is inherently sacrificial—perfectly shown in Christ’s death on the cross for us—and a life compelled by agapé overflows in sacrificial service, because we cannot help but respond to the One who first loved us.
12. **Anchored in Conviction of His Sacrifice “Because we are convinced that One died for all”**
13. Convinced: krinó (kree'-no) to distinguish, to make a final determination, come to a decision, judicially to come to a judgement, to pick out or choose by separating.
14. Christ’s one-time, substitutionary death is not part of a process; it is the decisive act that settled our standing before God.
15. This underscores the universality of Christ’s atonement and that His sacrificial death was sufficient for all humanity.
16. Final seconds of a close basketball game, the point guard launches a desperate shot. The buzzer sounds. The crowd holds its breath… then erupts as the ball swooshes through the net. No referee debate, no do-overs—one decisive basket settled the contest. Likewise, Christ’s one-time death is history’s game-winner; there is no need to chase merit or debate our standing. His atoning sacrifice has sealed our victory before God, once and for all.
17. We no longer chase merit or approval; we rest in the finality of His atoning Blood.
18. **United in His Death “Therefore all died”**
19. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
20. When Christ died, He did not merely pay a legal penalty; He identified with the sin-nature of all men and paid the price in full by becoming a curse for us.
21. In Him, our old sinful self was nailed to the Cross and died with Him.
22. Our shared death frees us from our past, guilt, shame, condemnation, and bondage to sin.
23. A tiny seed is buried in the soil and seems to vanish. Yet beneath the surface it decays, loses its old shape, and becomes the very substance that sprouts into a living plant. The seed’s “death” is not an end but the pathway to new, flourishing life. So when we identify with Christ’s death, our old self dies—and from that union springs a transformed life, rooted IN Him.
24. The yoke of slavery has been broken off our lives and we now reign in life through Jesus Christ!
25. **Embraced by Grace “And He died for all”**
26. Paul repeats this to underscore the vast scope of Christ’s sacrifice and His “agapé” love. No one is exempt from His reach.
27. Christ Jesus died as a substitute or a representative for all, and IN Him all died with Him who believe IN Him.
28. Died: apothnéskó (ap-oth-nace'-ko) died, to die off.
29. This is a compound word of “apo” is a preposition which means to put something that is near far away, or out of reach.
30. And the word “thnéskó” which means to die.
31. Paul could have simply used the word “thnéskó” but instead used “apothnéskó” to signifying the finality of death to our old sinful self that is no longer within our reach or a death to sin which no longer has any claim against us, ever again.
32. **John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes **in Him** shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did **not** send His Son into the world to condemn the world, **but to save the world through Him**.
33. His atoning work is sufficient for all and He is calling every man to receive grace, IN Him.
34. **Empowered to Live Beyond Self “That those who live should no longer live for themselves”**
35. Live: zaó (dzah'-o) live, alive, lively, to experience God’s gift of life. It is present, active, and eternal.
36. It describes our daily existence in the transformative power of Christ IN us.
37. **Romans 6:4** We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may walk in newness of life.
38. Baptism into His death points to our new identity not as spectators but as participants in His resurrected life.
39. To live for yourself is the default setting of the human heart.
40. **Romans 8:5-8** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6**For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **7**Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. **8**So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
41. To live for ourselves is to miss the purpose of the life Christ purchased for us.
42. Every choice—how we spend our time, allocate our resources, and love our neighbor—becomes an opportunity to reflect His character.
43. When Christ’s love compels you, self-centered living becomes unthinkable. Time, talent, and treasure transform into Kingdom investments, giving eternal weight to ordinary moments.
44. **Anchored by His Resurrection “But for Him who died for them and was raised again”**
45. Raised: egeiró (eg-i'-ro)to waken from: from sleep, inactivity, obscurity, disease, ruin, death to life
46. **2 Corinthians 4:7** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.
47. We serve a living Savior Whose Life, Death, Burial, Resurrection, and Ascension authenticate the gospel, energize our lives, and guarantees our triumph over every trial.
48. A patient’s heart flatlines in the ER. The team launches the defibrillator—one shock brings the patient back to life. That jolt is not a relic of the past; it is present power pulsing through them that restores life.
49. His Resurrection is not an isolated miracle —it is a present reality, fueling our hope, and transforming our lives into acts of worship. We live to the praise of His glory!
50. **“Resurrection power lives in me!”**
51. **Call to Action**
52. Lay Down Your Agenda
53. Identify one goal or habit that is driven by self-interest.
54. Confess it to God as sin, receive grace, and move forward. (Hebrews 4:16)
55. Love Sacrificially
56. Look for someone who cannot repay you—neighbor, coworker, stranger and offer your time, resources, or a listening ear as a tangible expression of Christ’s love.
57. Be about our Father’s business. Move beyond just tithing and start sowing financial seeds for Kingdom building. (Malachi 3:8-10)
58. Live Resurrected
59. Start each day by declaring, “I am raised with Christ and His Resurrection power flows through me!”
60. Invite the Spirit to turn every task—mundane or monumental—into an act of worship.
61. May Christ’s agapé compel you, His Death ground you, and His Resurrection empower you to live not for yourself but entirely for Him.

**Key Greek Terms**

| **Term** | **Meaning** | **Insight** |
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| agapé | unconditional love | Christ’s love is not earned—it is freely given to everyone. Only believe it and receive it. |
| sunechó | compels, constrains | His love holds me, guides me, motivates me, and will not let me go. |
| apothnéskó | died  | My old self died with Him; sin’s claim no longer stands. |
| zaó  | To have eternal life  | Every moment is charged with Christ’s life flowing through me. |
| egeiró  | was raised, present power | His resurrection power is at work in me today. |