

Representing Jesus and His Kingdom

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2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)

1. We Get a New Perspective (2 Corinthians 5:16-17, NIV)

¹⁶"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

"For this world in its present form is passing away." (1 Corinthians 7:31, NIV)

"I listened to your August 13 sermon at Moody Church online. After listening to it once, I listened again because I was awe struck with the number of times you adjusted your glasses while preaching. So, the second time I listened, I saw in the first 36 minutes of your sermon you adjust your glasses 74 times - - and then you took them off, so I counted no further. This was an average of once every 30 seconds. But, keep in mind, that this is an incomplete count because some of the time Scripture or your sermon was on the screen and I could not see you."

"I tell you this in Christian love because I know you are interested in being aware of anything that may distract listeners from hearing what you are preaching/teaching. So, I hope you will accept this knowing that I want your ministry to be as effective for Christ as possible."

2. Sent on a Mission of Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19, NIV)

¹⁸"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."

3. Representing Jesus and His Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20, NIV)

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

¹⁹"Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should." (Ephesians 6:19-20, NIV)

4. Because of the Cross (2 Corinthians 5:21, NIV)

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6, KJV)