1 - **The Love of Christ Constrains us**

2 Corinthians 5:14

2 - **What is love?**

Agapao - “**Love can be known only by the actions it prompts**” that is “**not drawn out by any excellency in its’ objects**.” (Vine) It **is an exercise of one’s “will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause**… **deep and constant**… **practical**…”

“to **take pleasure** in the thing, **prize it above** other things, be **unwilling to abandon it** or **do without it**” (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

3 - **What does “constrain” mean?**

Rendering in the ASV and KJV.

The ESV and NKJV render it “***compel***”.

To “**urge**” or “**compel**”. (Luke 12:50; Philippians 1:23)

Expressed in Romans 1:14, ***“under obligation”*** or
1 Corinthians 9:16, ***“woe is me if I do not”***.

Because of His love for us. ***(“One died for all…”***)

4 - **Because of His Love for us**

**Because of His love for us. *(“One died for all…”;***cf., 1 John 4:7-11, 17-21)

**“Demonstrated” while we were yet enemies**… (Romans 5:8)

5 - **The love of Christ constrains us to…**

**In the context of 2 Corinthians 5:**

* **Persuade men of judgment to come.**(vs. 10-11; Acts 17:30-31; Hebrews 9:27)
* **Live no longer for self but for Him.**(vs. 15; 1 Peter 4:2; Romans 14:7-9; )
* **To be a “new creature”.** (vs. 17; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 3:5-10)
* **Beg others to be reconciled**. (vs. 20)

6 - **The love of Christ constrains us to…**

**Considering the points from 2 Corinthians 5, the love of Christ also “constrains” us to:**

1. **Teach.** (Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 2:2; Mark 1:38;
John 6:44-45; Acts 5:28)
2. **Correct & admonish**. (Acts 18:26; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)
3. **Exercise discipline.** (1 Corinthians 5; Proverbs 12:1)
4. **Encourage**. (Hebrews 3:13; 10:25; 1 Thess. 5:11-14)
5. **Be humble.** (Philippians 2:3-5; Ephesians 4:1-3)

7 - **The love of Christ constrains us to…**

**Love the souls of others as He has loved us!**

**The “new” command.** (John 13:34; 15:12)

To:

* **Seek** (Luke 19:10)
* **Serve** (John 13:14-16)
* **Sacrifice** (John 10:18)