

UNBREAKABLE *but Broken*

BY LOVE

2 Corinthians 2:5 – 11; 5:14 – 21 (ESV)

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MESSAGE NOTES

Powerful Invitations from the Love of Christ:

- Let Christ's love control your life

*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might **no longer live for themselves but for Him** who for their sake died and was raised. — 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 15*

... but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — Romans 5:8

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God ...
— 1 Peter 3:18*

- Let Christ's love give you a new perspective

*So we have stopped evaluating others **from a human point of view**. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know Him now! — 2 Corinthians 5:16 (NLT)*

*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)*

Kintsugi

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
— 2 Corinthians 4:7*

- Let Christ's love lead you toward forgiveness

*For the love of Christ **compels** us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;
— 2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV)*

*All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the **ministry** of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting** their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the **message** of reconciliation. — 2 Corinthians 5:18 – 19 (ESV)*

When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. — 1 Peter 2:23 (ESV)

*Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.
— 2 Corinthians 2:10 – 11 (ESV)*

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. — 2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV)

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Christ invites us to let His love “control” our lives. What things often control the direction of our lives and choices? What does it mean for the love of Christ to control us?
- 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 15 tells us the love of the cross can change anyone and everything. What areas of your life might need the influence and guidance of God’s love right now?
- In the ancient Japanese art of Kintsugi broken vessels are repaired with valuable materials like gold and put back into use. The repair and breakage is highlighted. How does that image relate to the love of Christ that took Him all the way to the cross and out of the grave for us?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. Share what the verse means to you and what new perspective God wants you to have on people around you.
- There are so many great ministries to be a part of at ENCOUNTER. Share some of the ministries you have been a part of and how you have seen God work. If you haven’t been a part of a ministry team, what ministry might you consider and why? What does it mean that we are all a part of the ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation? (2 Corinthians 5:18 – 19)