

WWLD

What would LOVE do?

11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we *persuade* men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an occasion to be proud of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who take pride in appearance and not in heart.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

14 For *the love of Christ controls us,*
having concluded this, that one died
for all, therefore all died;

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

15 and *He died for all*, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

16 Therefore from now on ***we recognize no one according to the flesh***; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ,
*he is a new creature; the old things
passed away; behold, new things
have come.*

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

18 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us *the ministry of reconciliation,*

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**, and He has committed to us **the word of reconciliation**.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; ***we beg you*** on behalf of Christ, ***be reconciled to God.***

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be sin* on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:11–21

We are called, like
Jesus, to be
indiscriminate sowers
of the Word and love
of God

15 "But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones *who have heard the word in an honest and good heart*, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

Luke 8:15

Jesus is the embodiment of
love. To re-present Him
means to live by the law of
love.

Jesus' ministry was also to a particular people in a particular time and place. He embodied the eternal word by applying it wisely to every circumstance He faced.

God's word is eternal, but
not every word is
appropriate for every
circumstance. The Living
Word cannot be reduced to
principles and precepts.

The only common link to all
of the words of Jesus is
that they were always
motivated by love.

**1 Therefore be imitators of God,
as beloved children;**

Ephesians 5:1–2

2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Ephesians 5:1–2

Jesus reserved His
harshlest words for:

Pharisees

Unforgiveness

Stumbling Blocks

Jesus was never harsh
with someone caught up
in sin.

These all have one thing in
common: they
misrepresent the Father's
love, making it harder for
people to see the Lord.

4 “Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4–6

5 "And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me;

Matthew 18:4–6

6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to *stumble*, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matthew 18:4–6

We make people
stumble when we put
a religious obstacle
course between them
and the love of God.

52 "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you yourselves did not enter, and *you hindered those who were entering.*"

Luke 11:52

46 But He said, "Woe to you lawyers as well! For *you weigh men down with burdens hard to bear*, while *you yourselves will not even touch the burdens* with one of your fingers.

Luke 11:46

If we are going to point out
the sin of those around us,
we had best be ready to
offer more than words of
condemnation to help them
get free from it.

32 "Then summoning him, his lord *said to him, 'You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Matthew 18:32–35

33 'Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?'

Matthew 18:32–35

34 "And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him.

Matthew 18:32–35

35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:32–35

When we remain aware of
how deeply we have been
forgiven, it becomes
impossible to hold the sins
of others against them.

We have the power to hold someone accountable for their sins against us, or to release them. Unforgiveness is a stumbling block both to them and us.

How will you preach the
gospel (with or without
words) by your
demonstration of love this
week?