

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 01.06.25

PREACHER: PS JOSH PLUMB

THE NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]

[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple: As disciples, we are called to be shaped by the cross, not driven by status, striving, or self-preservation, but by a heart fully satisfied in the love of God. The cross reminds us that love came first, long before our effort, our faithfulness or our performance. To live in light of that love is to have a heart after God.

OVERVIEW

Living in light of the cross means more than remembering Christ's sacrifice, it's allowing it to reshape how we live and see the world. We no longer live for ourselves but as ambassadors of reconciliation, compelled by His love to carry His message. In Christ, we see others with new eyes and step into a mission that reflects His heart. The cross calls us to live with urgency, grace, and a deep awareness that now is the time of God's favor.

ACTION

Step 1: Reflect: In what ways has the love of Christ changed how you see yourself and others? Are there people you're still viewing through a worldly lens rather than the lens of Christ's love?

Step 2: Commit: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one relationship that needs healing or greater love. Surrender it to God and commit to being open to His work of reconciliation within you and through you.

Step 3: Act: Take one small, tangible step toward reconciliation this week. That could be reaching out in kindness, praying intentionally for someone, or choosing to speak life where there's been distance or tension.

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-6:2

When a couple gets married or welcomes their first child, life as they knew it changes forever. A new world begins, and with it, a new way of living. This is what Paul is getting at in 2 Corinthians 5. “The old has gone, the new is here!”. The cross wasn’t just the end of something, it was the beginning of something new. When we encounter the love of Christ, we are not just improved - we are entirely new.

But here's the tension: we are becoming what we already are. Just like a newly married couple take time to become good spouses, or a brand new mum or dad takes time to learn how to parent, it takes time for our habits to catch up to our new identity. Paul invites us to see what God sees: we are already made new. And now, we are invited to live in a way that matches this new world.

So what does that look like? For Paul, it begins with love. Real love, not sentiment, but the kind that sacrifices. The kind that changes how we see everything. Paul had experienced the radical love of Christ and it compelled him to live differently. There is a spiritual reality on us becoming new creation, that demands a practical response. The cross isn’t just something we look at with gratitude, it’s something we live from.

“Compelled” is a strong word, it's not casual. It becomes a movement that drives our motives, shapes our decisions, and transforms our purpose. This is what love does. It makes you give up a trip around the world to sit beside a hospital bed. It makes you forgive when you’ve been hurt. It softens hard hearts, quiets pride, and teaches us to see differently. In light of the cross, we don't just see people as faces in a crowd. We begin to see others differently, no longer as competitors, threats, or inconveniences, but as people created by God, worthy of grace and restoration.

More than this, we start to understand our role. We’re not just recipients of grace, we are agents of it. Reconcilers. Co-workers with God. Ambassadors of a different kingdom. We carry a message: that God has made peace with the world through Christ. And our lives, ordinary as they seem, are a living invitation for others to come home to Him.

But this message is not just for “one day.” Paul ends with urgency: Now is the time of God’s favour. Today is the day of salvation. We’re not waiting for a better moment. The kingdom is breaking in, here and now. Jesus is still transforming lives, still making all things new, still inviting us to live in the light of His love.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

1. Paul says we no longer live for ourselves but for Christ. What does that look like in the real rhythms of your life—at home, work, or with friends? What makes that kind of self-surrender challenging?
2. The cross transforms not just our eternity, but our everyday. How might your daily decisions or interactions change if you truly lived under the power of Christ's death and resurrection?
3. Reconciliation starts with God, but it moves through us. Who in your life might need an invitation into grace—and how can you be a bridge rather than a barrier?

PRAYER

Jesus,

We don't want to just remember the cross, we want to live changed by it.

Teach us to see with new eyes, to see ourselves as made new, and others as deeply loved. Where we've been holding onto old ways of thinking, Jesus would you soften our hearts.

Where we've let comfort lead, call us back to the path of surrender and let Your love reshape us. Make us carriers of Your reconciliation in a world that so deeply needs it.

Amen.