

STYLE

“...fashion, manner or custom that prevails
... a way of writing or speaking
... excellence of form or expression, as in literature, speech, or art.”
... Style is the dress of thoughts.”

A Closer look at Jesus reveals his style:

- Jesus connected with people by listening to them.
- Jesus loved people where they were.
- Jesus focused on the sharing of God's Word to the individual.
- Jesus was never distracted when he met with people.
- Jesus asked questions to draw people out.
- Jesus' message was always consistent but never generic.
- Jesus was personal, honest, and compassionate.

The foundation of Christ's style rests on His love for people—II Corinthians 5:11-21

(v.11) Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too.
(v.12) Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. (v.13) If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.
(v.14) Either way, Christ's love controls us. (v.15) He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.
(v.16) 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! (v.17) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
(v.18) And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. (v.19) For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.

And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. (v.20) So we are Christ's ambassadors; God making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!' (v.21) For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

II Corinthians 5:11-21
New Living Translation

Our Style:

1—We work hard to **encourage** people to move into a permanent relationship with Christ. (v.11)

#2—God **knows** we are sincere, nothing further is needed. (v.11)

#3—We don't want to appear as crazy people, but Christ's love **compels** us,

controls us,

urges us forward! (v.13-15)

#4—We are determined to **not** evaluate people from a human position. (v.16)

#5—We fully understand God was in Christ reconciling **all** people to himself. (v.18)

There are no favorites in God's heart—ALL of us are loved by God.

#6—We love the truth that sins no longer count! They are **forgiven** !!!!! (v.19)

#7—We continue to pray, think, push the boundaries, to discover new ways to **connect** with people in our community who do not yet know Christ's forgiveness. (v.20)

#8--Do you have any questions about Jesus and his incredible love for you?

May we be helpful to you? Come down front, or e-mail us, or call us.

480-945-9346