



## Pastoral Update—July 24, 2020

*“For Christ’s love compels us...” 2 Corinthians 5:14*



A Desert Cross friend sent this picture to me from her yard. These rosy faced birds live in lifelong pairs. Their apt name hails from the Greek words “agape” and “ornis” put together, which translates “Lovebird.” Agape love means the highest form of selfless love. It’s the kind of love Jesus has for us in the cross.

Jesus advocated for the way of love in the 1<sup>st</sup> century and called his followers to lead the way of love into eternity. The Apostle Paul uses the Greek word, “agape,” when he writes about Christ’s special love and its meaning for our faith and daily lives in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, *“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

Paul goes on to explain the effect of this selfless love Christ has shared with us. Paul actually suggests that we have in our hands a “ministry of reconciliation” as Christ’s ambassadors for love in the world. How might this compassionate, selfless love of Christ motivate us in these days with the current issues of pandemic and racism we face together? How do we respond in a way that we “no longer live for ourselves,” as Paul puts it, but that we live as ambassadors for reconciliation?

We live in the presence of a selfless God who has a lifelong love for us. May we open our eyes, ears, and hearts to this love so that it might flow through our hands and mouths to heal this broken world.

With love,

*Pastor Andrea*

P.S. The Apostle Paul also tells us in verse 17 that “The old has gone, the new is here!” This couldn’t be more true in 2020. 😊 We created a new platform for Fall 2020 education. Check out our fun and exciting plans [here!](#)