

Evangelism Workshop

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The Ministry of Reconciliation

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 5:1-21

PROPOSITION: Evangelism is the ministry of reconciliation in which Christ makes us His ambassadors to the world.

I. Our Assurance of Eternal Life (2 Corinthians 5:1-5)

- A. We are certain that when we die we will have a home in heaven and bodies that will never die. (1)
 - 1. We are anxious to be clothed with our heavenly bodies. (2-4)
 - 2. We are guaranteed these immortal bodies by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (5)
- B. We want others to have this blessed assurance.

II. Our Confidence in Life and in Death (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

- A. We are confident in life because living means serving Christ and witnessing for Him.
- B. We are confident in death because death means being present with Christ.
- C. We want others to know the peace of living and dying confidently.

III. Our Motivation for Serving Christ and Witnessing for Him. (2 Corinthians 5:9-15)

- A. We are motivated by the certainty of judgment. (9-11)
 - 1. Our aim in life or in death is to please God. (9)
 - 2. Our aim is to receive recognition and rewards from God, not humans. (10)
 - 3. Our aim is to persuade people to prepare for the coming day of judgment. (11)
 - a. The terror of the Lord is real.
 - b. The knowledge of the Lord is complete.
- B. We are motivated by the love of Christ. (12-15)
 - 1. Christ's love motivates us to serve Him with sincere hearts. (12)
 - 2. Christ's love motivates us to serve Him passionately. (13)
 - 3. Christ's love motivates us to serve others sensibly. (13)
 - 4. Christ's love motivates us to live for Him and not ourselves. (14,15)
 - 5. Christ's love motivates us to witness to everyone. (14,15)

IV. Our Transformation as New Creatures in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:16,17)

- A. Our new life in Christ causes a change in our perceptions. (16)
 - 1. There is a change in how we view others.
 - 2. There is a change in how we view Christ.
- B. Our new life in Christ causes a change in our very nature. (17)
- C. Our new life in Christ causes a change in our lifestyle. (17)
- D. Our new life in Christ is something that we should want others to experience.

V. Our Witness as God's Ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

- A. We have this new life because we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. (18)
 - 1. We were brought back to God through God's initiative.
 - 2. We were brought back to God through Christ's death on the cross.

- B. We have received the *ministry of reconciliation*, the task of reconciling people to God. (18)
 - 1. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, not condemning the world.
 - 2. Christ is in us, that we might be His instruments in reconciling the world to God.

- C. We have been entrusted with the *message of reconciliation*, the gospel of Jesus Christ. (19)
 - 1. God has given to us message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - 2. God has commissioned us to tell the wonderful message of Jesus to others.

- D. We have been made Christ's ambassadors to the world. (20,21)
 - 1. Through us He wants to speak to them.
 - 2. Through us He wants to plead with them to be reconciled to God.
 - 3. Through us He wants them to know the gospel (good news).
 - a. Although sinless, Christ became sin for us.
 - b. Although sinful, we can become the righteousness of God.