

Ambassadors for Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10-6:2

To start your group, have everyone share one way they have seen God at work in their life this week.

Read the key verse: 2 Corinthians 5:20. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

1. What is an ambassador? What is an ambassador for Christ? In what ways does an ambassador have to function within two kingdoms? (A couple OT examples might be Daniel or Joseph).
2. What does it mean to be reconciled to God? Why do we need reconciliation?
3. "God making His appeal through us"- Does this idea motivate you? Scare you? Surprise you?

I. The Motivation of Ambassadors.

4. Paul gives us two motivations for ambassadors in this passage. The first one is the knowledge of judgement. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10-11. Paul brings up the judgment of Christ. Jesus will judge all of humanity. However, those that are in Christ have already had their sins judged (see 2 Cor. 5:21). In verse 11 Paul says that the fear of the Lord is therefore, a motivator for him. That is, he takes God seriously, and the danger of God's judgement seriously.

Are you motivated by a knowledge of judgement?

5. The second motivator that Paul describes is love (see v.14). Does the love of Christ control your life?
6. Before we can love like Christ, we must believe that we are loved by Christ. Is this hard for you to believe in Christ's love for you? Do you believe 2 Cor. 5:17?

II. The Mission of Ambassadors.

7. Re-read 2 Cor. 5:17-18. How do these verses explain the gospel? Have you seen the gospel the way it is described here - new creation, old gone, reconciled to God, ministry of reconciliation? Which of these truths stand out to you?
8. Paul says that we have both the ministry of reconciliation (v.18) and the message of reconciliation (v.19). We are called to both word ministry and deed ministry. How does your life measure up in both of these areas?
9. How are you, or how could you, be intentionally building bridges to those around you in order to share your life and the gospel?