

Why Evangelism, Why Now?

Acts 17:16 “While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.”

You Are Loved by God

Paul’s Story

v. 14 – The love of Christ (the love Christ has for us) controls us

v. 15 – He died for all, [in order] that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who for their sake died and was raised

v. 16 - ... we once regarded Christ according to the flesh

Enemies of God

Reconciliation implies that people are by nature enemies of God. We are not, by nature, his friends.

You Are a New Creation

The results of evangelism

v. 17 – If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Behold, the old is gone, the new has come!

The old order that controlled the individual’s pre-Christian existence is undone. The individual’s whole being, value system, and behavior are changed through conversion. This person that used to look at the world and judge on outward appearances is changed. They are now able to see what has true value.

Important: this is not the erasure of the personality, but actually the only means by which we might find our true self that God made.

How God wants to change the world

You Are an Ambassador of God

Ambassador

An official representative

Stationed in a foreign nation

Declaring the interests and message of their nation

The Ambassador’s Message

v. 19 – In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

v. 20 – We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

v. 21 – For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What happened on the cross

Why it’s good news

So...

Share the Gospel because *God loves you!*

Share the Gospel because *it’s who you are, as ambassador, as a minister of reconciliation.*

Share the Gospel because *God is worthy of the worship of his creatures.*

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. How would you summarize the Gospel message? How does this passage help you understand that message?
2. How does Christ’s love control you?
3. What is the difference between your life before and after Christ? Are you a new creation?
4. Who is your “one?” Did you pray for that person regularly over the course of this last week?