

The Proclamation of Reconciliation

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2 Corinthians 5:17–6:2

May 7, 2023

Snapshot:

Jesus came to reconcile us to God and give us the ministry of reconciliation.

- I. The evangelist is made (5:17, 18)
- II. The evangelist is sent (5:18-20)
- III. The evangelist's message (5:21–6:2)

Connect

What is your greatest fear when it comes to evangelism? Why do you think that is the case?

Study

Point 1: The evangelist is made (5:17, 18)

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17, 18; Mark 5:1-20

1) Why is it important for us to understand who we are in Christ before we try to persuade others to follow Jesus Christ? Who was the man in Mark before Jesus performed His miracle? How does his life after Jesus' miracle illustrate the point Paul is making in 2 Corinthians 5:17–18? Why do we sometimes think “If I had an experience the man in Mark, I would be more likely to evangelize?” What is the miracle you have experienced in Christ and how does that make you an evangelist?

2) What does it look like for you to remind yourself who you are in Christ? What are some ways your small group can remind one another who you are in Christ? Jesus tells the man in Mark to “Go home to your friends, tell them how much the Lord has done for you.” How can you rehearse “how much the Lord has done for you” so that you can go home to your friends and tell them?

Point 2: The evangelist is sent (5:18-20)

READ 2 Corinthians 5:18–20; Mark 5:19, 20; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8

3) In what ways do these verses help us understand that evangelism is for every Christian? What are some reasons people (and maybe even you) use to not evangelize? Do those reasons negate the call to evangelism?

4) Who is doing the reconciling in the 2 Corinthians passage? Explain why that is important for evangelism. Why should the phrase “not counting their trespasses against them” create a sense of urgency for us to go evangelize? What would it look like to implore someone on behalf of Christ? How do these passages help you see that the local church is the Lord's plan for evangelism? What does that mean?

Point 3: The evangelist's message (5:21–6:2)

READ 2 Corinthians 5:21–6:2

- 5) Discuss the elements of the gospel message you see in this passage. How does one “receive Christ in vain”?
- 6) Why is calling for a response such an important aspect of evangelism? Why do you think many stop short of calling for a response when sharing the gospel? What would it look like to call for a response to the gospel message? What do you do in the relationship when someone says they are not interested in the gospel? Did you fail in evangelism if someone denies Christ? Why or why not?

Pray the passage

Pray for the church to have the mind of evangelism.

Pray for the lost in our area, that we would have opportunities to share Christ with them.

Pray that you would grow in your desire to participate in the ministry of reconciliation.

Memorize & Meditate

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Preparing for next week

Read: Isaiah 28-30

Ask: questions of the text

Pray: through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.