

Galatians 2:10

Compassion Sunday

Image Church // May 5, 2024

Introduction

Well, good morning Image Family I hope you're doing well!
Hey, this weekend is a very special weekend in the life of our church!
It's **Compassion Sunday!**

How many of you have been part of a compassion Sunday before??

- We did our first compassion Sunday- ½ sponsored a kid...
 - Means there's a lot more who can sponsor!
- Some of you have no clue what I'm talking about, and that's ok. I'm glad you're here- you're about to be part of something special!

Listen, one of the things that we care about here at Image Church is sending God's people to all people!

And this morning I want to do is **expose** you to a tangible expression of one of the ways that we want to do that here at Image Church through a strategic partnership with an organization called **Compassion International!**

Compassion International is a 60-year-old organization that's committed to releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name!

- And the thing I love about them is that they do it all through the local church...

But what excites me about what we're going to be talking about today through our partnership with Compassion International is how it brings together so much of God's call on His church...

We serve a global God with a global mission that He's called His church to engage in... What we see over and over again in Scripture is that Jesus didn't come for **a people. He came for all people!**

And the beauty of the church is that it was established by Jesus to be a continuation of His ministry...

It's why the church is called the **Body of Christ...** Because it's designed to put Jesus on display for the world!

We say this all the time here, but you saved from something to something the church!

- And as the church, we're called to embody the mission of Jesus not **just locally** but also **globally!**
- And that happens through **giving, going, and praying!**

Embracing the call to the nations is part of who we are...

- We've sent out our very own members to **Eastern Europe** to work with an unreached people group...
- In fact, we have a short-term trip to go spend time with them happening this fall!
- And my hope is that others of you would join them in the call to go!

This morning, I want to give you a **foundational opportunity** in your spiritual journey when it comes to being about the gospel to the nations...

- And what's so incredible about this opportunity is that it's something that all of us can participate in together...
- It's something that cultivates **awareness** and **engagement** when it comes to seeing the gospel advance to the ends of the earth!
- And the beauty in this is not only what God's going to do **through us**, but **what God's going to do in us!**

So much of putting our **yes** on the table when it comes to international missions is about allowing God to do something in you, not just through you...

The question I want you to wrestle with this morning is **how invested are you in reaching and engaging with the nations?**

Let me lay the groundwork for you, and then we can talk about how we can engage together...

If you have your Bible, go ahead and turn to Galatians 2...

Remember, we've been in our series through the book of **Galatians**, where Paul is **confronting** a huge problem that's taking place throughout the churches in Galatia...

There's been a group of people called the **Judaizers** who had come in and were teaching a **perverted gospel... Jesus + works of the law = Salvation...**

- Christians were falling prey to this and drifting from the true gospel that's **grace alone by faith alone...**

So Paul wrote this letter confronting the churches in Galatia and telling them that there was no other version of the gospel...

- And if you remember back, he validated his claim by walking them through his personal story...
- And in that, we got to see the **impact** and **implications** of the **true gospel** that was established by Jesus through Paul...

And there's this moment in Paul's story where he's talking about how he went to Jerusalem to make sure that they were preaching the same thing that he was...

- And he takes a guy named **Titus** with him... And uncircumcised non-Jew to see if the leaders in Jerusalem were going to say that he needed to be circumcised in order to be saved...

And it turns out that there's a consensus among all the leaders that **Titus** doesn't need to be saved...

- And we see this powerful affirming that salvation comes by **faith alone in Christ alone...**
- Jesus has done all of the work...
 - **Gospel...**
- There's nothing required for salvation **other than faith in the finished work of JESUS...**

So, big moment in time right here! But there's something else in this that we need to see and understand...

And in the middle of all this core theology, there's an important implication that's agreed on coming out of the confirmation of what the gospel is that we can't miss...

And it's in **Chapter 2, verse 10**, *Let's look at it...*

Galatians 2:10

¹⁰ They asked only that we would remember the poor, which I had made every effort to do.

So here's the thing to understand...

- This isn't a work that saves you...
- This is an **implication** that comes from being saved...

IOW: Caring for the poor is what the gospel produces in those who have been saved...

We need to see that a natural overflow of the gospel at work in us is love, care, and compassion to those in need through us...

See, in the gospel, we see a God who came to us when we were **spiritually poor and needy**... And He did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves...

- He sacrificed for the sake of our flourishing...
- And Jesus' sacrifice was, to the greatest degree, He offering His life in our place!

Some of you need to experience the compassion of Jesus this morning...

- It's not until you do that you will ever desire to have compassion on others... A gap in compassion means there's a gap in gospel understanding...

The gospel gives us a new heart that leads to a new way of living in light of all that Jesus has done for us...

Jesus changed our eternal trajectory through his **compassion** and **grace** toward us...

- And it's what Jesus has done for us spiritually that shapes how we live physically...

IOW: Compassion to us means that compassion should flow through us...

See, there's a **dynamic shift** that happens when you become a Christian... You become become the things of Jesus to the world!

- **IOW: We want to rescue children out of poverty because Jesus has rescued us...**
- At one point, you ***didn't know (Jesus) stepped in and provided a way out for you when you didn't have one!***

Not only did Jesus model this for us **spiritually**, but He also lived it out **physically**... *He spent so much time engaging those in need...*

And then He **commissioned** us to do the same...

In **Luke 10**, Jesus uses the parable of the good Samaritan as a model for who our neighbor is and what it means to love our neighbor...

I want to show you His model for what it looks like that He gives in His parable...

Luke 10:33 But a Samaritan on his journey came up to him, [This is a man that had been robbed, stripped down, and beaten] and when he saw the man, he had **compassion**.³⁴ He went over to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on olive oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him. When I come back I'll reimburse you for whatever extra you spend.'

What Jesus shows us here is that, literally, everyone is our neighbor. This Samaritan didn't know this guy on the side of the road...

And then Jesus also shows us what it looks like to be neighborly here which is: ***intentional loving care of those in need...***

Jesus would take this even further in **Matthew 25**, where He tells the parable of the sheep and the goats...

- This parable is a **word picture** of the final Judgement where Jesus will separate those who have truly trusted in Him and those who haven't...
- And that those who have trusted in Jesus, respond by loving the least of these, It's evidence of heart position because what breaks Jesus' heart also should break the heart of those who follow Him...

In **Luke 18:16**, Jesus something else that helps us see His heart. *He says: Let the little children come to me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.*

Jesus models tenderness, compassion, and kindness towards the most vulnerable... He welcomes them to himself...

We see the heart of Jesus here for children and His desire for nothing to hinder them from coming to Him!

We want to be about getting children to Jesus, **especially** those with little access!

Here's how this all fits together...

In **Galatians 2:10** [put it back on the screen], I love Paul's response to the agreement that was made in Jerusalem about caring for the poor...

Paul says:

- *I've made every effort to do that...* Or some translations put it better to say *it's the very thing I was eager to do...*

There's a pattern in Paul's ministry where he makes an effort to collect for the sake of the ministry to those in need...

- **Romans 15:25–26:** Right now I am traveling to Jerusalem to serve the saints,²⁶ because Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.
- **Acts 24:17** After many years, I came to bring charitable gifts and offerings to my people.

*Our partnership with **Compassion** allows us, like Paul, to contribute together toward the ministry to those in need...*

What I love about **Compassion International** is that their mission is to help kids in need and point them to their greatest need, which is Jesus!

- They bring together what we believe in here as a church when it comes to God's call on our lives...
- **Ministry in both Word and deed...** This is what Jesus modeled for us, and this is what we want to be about as a church!

*I want to talk specifically about **Compassion International** and what they do...*

- They Partner with the local church... They are the middle-man, the liaison... Connecting kids to churches!
- They are about Holistic child development...
 - spiritual, physical, social, vocational...

- Partner with churches to establish **CDCs** for the sake of the flourishing of the next generation in places of extreme poverty...
- But the thing that I love is that they personalize it... Rather than just giving money to some org. You get the chance to specifically sponsor a child...

Here's the opportunity that sponsoring a child creates...

- A relationship with a person...
- An investment in their flourishing...
 - People are not projects, not about feeling good about ourselves. It's about the flourishing of image bears...
- An opportunity to engage with them through written letters where you can share about you, but more importantly, where you can share the gospel with them...
- And you can also go and spend time with the child that you sponsor...

I want you to understand what this can cultivate for your kids, your home, and our church...

- In your home, it's a foundation for missions. It's a relationship with a person that you get the chance to pray for and share the gospel with and even send gifts to...
- Missions no longer is an abstract idea for your kids... It's a real reality!
- It's a goal that you can set to go visit them...
 - First trip as a family!

My family's story: Last year, we started a sponsorship with a young girl named Denessy...

- Chosen by my daughter... Close to her age- 1-year difference...
- Adalyn draws her pictures, writes to her, and prays for her...
- The impact and awareness that it's had on Adalyn has been incredible!

And not only does this have an impact on your family, but it also has an impact on our church...

For our church, it allows us all to be engaged with international missions...

- Not the finish line, but it's an incredible starting line...
- Cultivates a culture, jeeps it in front of you, reminds you to be praying for the gospel to advance in Honduras... Praying like Jesus said to send out laborers....

Here's the thing: when it comes to international missions, you're either a **goer** or a **giver**... And we're all called to be prayers!

So, what does it look like to sponsor a child? **\$43 a month...**

- That's roughly \$1.38 a day...
- Love my CFA ppl, but that's what it costs for me and my family to eat one meal at CFA...
- For some of you, this is like **5** Starbucks drinks a month...
- Or **1** target pick up for the things you really don't need...
- It's nothing compared to the impact it will have on you and on them...

Yall listen, for us, this has been the year of transformation- and one of our **4 objectives** is to **live sacrificially**...

- This is a tangible way that you take a next step in that!

I want to invite someone special to the stage with me for just a minute... **Jey if you'll make your way up here...**

We asked **Jey** to come and share his story with us this morning so that we could see the impact and opportunities that come through sponsorship...

Jey shares his story [~10 min]

What a powerful story, Jey, thanks so much for being willing to share it with us! I want to give you a chance to partner with others who were like Jey... *Knowing that you have no idea what God can do!*

The Call

So here's what we have: all around the back of the room are tables...

- You get the opportunity to see and pick out the child you want to sponsor...

Maybe you want your kids to be part of this... After the service, go check them out of Image Kids and bring them in here and we will have people in here ready to help you!

So here's what I want to ask you to do in these next few minutes...

- As an act of worship, I want to ask everyone in just a minute to go to these tables and experience these children...

Compassion is part of who we are- If you consider Image Church home, I want you to join in with us on our effort to ***release children from poverty in Jesus' name!***

My hope is that every home sponsors a child! For some of you, you need to sponsor 2 or 3...

- *Last year, we had one family stay after and grabbed 2 more packets, and ended up sponsoring 3 children...*

Some of you already sponsor a child, I want you to consider sponsoring another one... *Has God blessed you over the past year financially? Could you leverage some of that to sponsor another child?!*

So here's the call: in just a minute, I want to ask everyone, regardless of where you are on this, to go back to the tables that we have in the back...

And I want you to look at these kids who are real people in real need, and I want you to either sponsor... **Or**, if for some reason you cannot, I want to ask you to pray...

- Pray that God will bring someone else who will sponsor them!

- *Maybe you start praying, and God lays it on your heart to sponsor- do it!*

Once you have identified the **Child** or **Children** you want to sponsor, **bring the packet back to your seat.**

There is a perforated part at the bottom once you open it...

- What we need for you to do is **fill out that bottom part...**
- **We need this bottom part.**
- You keep the packet, we just need the perforated part that you tear off...
- If you take the packet and we don't get that tear off, then the child doesn't get sponsored...

There's also a **QR code** on the packet that you can scan and fill out digitally...

We're going to have plenty of time, so don't rush...

- What we're about to do is an act of worship- as we respond to the gospel... It's why we do it as part of our gathering...

Ok, would you stand with me...

I'll pray, and then you go back to the tables, and then in a little while Beth will bring us all back together...

Pray [VAMP starts during prayer]

Space for people to go to the tables, get their packets, and come back to their seats and start filling them out.

[14-minute clock]

Beth brings people back together to Sing the Last Song

Trey closes after the song with this:

What an incredible morning hearing the gospel and getting the chance to respond to the gospel!

Here's the last thing that we need you to do before you leave if you sponsored a child...

- Find someone with a **Compassion teeshirt on. They will have a bucket, just take that** perforated part you've filled out and drop it in the bucket...

These cards will stay out after the service, and we will have ppl here to help you if you want to go back and look some more or if you want to go grab your kids and bring them in to be part of this with you...

And if, for some reason, you were not sure this week about sponsoring, we will have them here again next week...

I am so excited about this and how God's going to us this in the lives of these children and in the life of our church!

Compassion and international missions is part of who we are! Today, we got to take a step together in that as we continue in the year of transformation...

I want to send you out with this...

- Would the same gospel that came to you be the thing that flows through you!!