

The Ministry of Reconciliation
Serving Others in Love
First Christian Church—July 26, 2020
Chuck Foreman, Teaching/Missions Pastor

Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing...

We are created for harmony, peace and freedom. But the harmony, peace and freedom Christ gives us is a **way of life** not consumed with the preservation of personal liberties, but with meeting the needs of others. *Jesus sets us free from serving self to serve others.*

- John 8:32 "...then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."
- John 13:34-35 "As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
- Galatians 5:13-15 "You were called to be free, but..."

Our Christian ancestors understood this truth—

- Early descriptions of Christian response to suffering:
 - Meeting needs of the poor, Acts 4:33b-35
 - Famine under Roman Emperor Claudius, Acts 11:27-30; 2 Cor. 8:1-4
- Christian response to two pandemics during the early Roman Empire
 - Antonine Plague 185 AD
 - Cyprian Plague 249 AD
 - Christianity Official Roman Religion by 313 AD, Emperor ConstantineHow did this happen? *No one besides Xians cared for the sick!*

GOD's Story—The Ministry of Reconciliation, *Serving Others in Love*
2 Corinthians 5:14—6:2

Personal Stories of Reconciliation to God and to Others—*servicing others in love...*

- Jerome & Marissa Parker
- Darren & Brenda Cooney

Are you reconciled to God?

Are you working to be reconciled to others?

Have you found the truth that sets you free to serve others in love?

Big Idea:

Jesus sets us free from our concern for our personal interests.

We are no longer slaves to self and fear.

We have been set free to serve others in love.

This is what will change our world!

Right On!

(NT Scripture Reading: John 13:34-35)