

Declaring and Displaying the Gospel Together

Change that Matters

2 Corinthians 5:14-19

When you were united to Christ, radical changes took place that make it possible for you to fulfill your mission.

1. You were united to Christ

a. What does this mean

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b. How did this happen

2. You were radically changed

a. Your _____ was changed

b. Your _____ was changed

c. Your _____ were changed

3. You were made fit for a mission

a. You were _____ the message

b. You are _____ the message

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READY

Have you ever experienced culture shock? What makes it so stressful to be in a foreign environment?

SET & GO

Primary Text: 2 Corinthians 5:14-19

Secondary Text: Romans 12:18

Set 1 *Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-19 aloud. Answer the following questions:*

According to verse 15, to what end did Christ die for all?

What has changed for those who are “in Christ” (v 17)?

What did God do for us through Christ (v 18)?

What did God give us (v 18)?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss: In verse 17, the phrase “in Christ” refers to believers having been joined to Him such that He became our representative in the same way that Adam was our representative; so when He died, we died; and when He was made alive, we were made alive (cf. v 14-15). In fact, all that became His as the Son of Man has become ours as God’s children (e.g. His righteousness, His inheritance, etc.).*

Go 2a If you have been united to Christ, how does God think of you? How should this change the way you think of yourself?

Go 2b How should the reality of Christ’s sacrifice for you change the way you live (cf. v 15)?

Go 2c No one lives completely for Christ; everyone struggles with some measure of selfishness. What are some specific ways this selfishness shows up in your life?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss: Verse 17 makes it clear that there has been a radical change in us. Verse 16 gives an example of this change: before Christ we made our assessments of people based in worldly things (e.g. intelligence, appearance, status, education, etc.). We even thought of Christ in worldly ways (i.e. filled with misconceptions of who He is and why He came), but now we think of Him and of others from a whole new perspective. In fact, our entire worldview has changed and we see things very differently.*

Go 3a Can you identify significant changes in your way of thinking since you believed? What are key ways in which your thinking is different from the world’s way of thinking?

Go 3b What worldly qualities are you most tempted to use in shaping your opinion of other people?

Go 3b How are you laboring to continue changing your way of thinking about things? (cf. Romans 12:2)

Set 4 *Briefly discuss: Reconciliation with God is another key change that resulted from Christ’s work on our behalf (v 18-19). Reconciliation means that we are at complete peace with God; nothing stands between us. God’s movement toward us is what should compel us to move toward others in an effort to seek peace in our relationships. Perhaps more than anything else, your efforts to seek biblical peace with others when you feel hurt or wronged is a visible display of Christ at work in your life.*

Go 4a What did it cost God to make peace with you? What did it cost Christ?

Go 4b What does it mean to be at peace with God? What does it mean to be at peace with others?

Go 4c Why is reconciliation with others who have hurt or wronged you such a powerful illustration of the gospel?

Go 4c Why is it so difficult to seek peace with others when relationships are fractured? What are things that might keep you from going to that person(s)? How will it help to remember what Christ did for you?

FINISH

1. Are you absolutely sure that you have peace with God? If not, who will you ask to help you find that peace?
2. Do you have any unreconciled relationships with others? What steps will you take to move toward peace?