**NEIGHBORS AND NATIONS- PART 3**

**A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS 5 & 6**
**2 Corinthians 5:14-16 (ESV)**
*“14 For the* ***love of Christ*** *controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 16 From now on, therefore,* ***we regard no one according to the flesh****. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.”*

**To reach our neighbors we have to change the lens we see people through.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)**

*17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a* ***new creation****. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)**

*“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (ESV)**

*18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and* ***gave us the ministry of reconciliation****; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and* ***entrusting to us the message of reconciliation****.*
*20 Therefore, we are* ***ambassadors for Christ****, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 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.”*

**God has chosen us to be evangelists & missionaries that bring the message of reconciliation to our neighbors.**

**To reach our neighbors we have to get a right perspective of ourselves. 2 Corinthians 6:1-3 (ESV)**

*“1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.*
*2 For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 3 We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry...”*

**To reach our neighbors we have to fight to put no obstacles in their way.**

By every word and action we can make others think more or less about Christ & His church. Everything we do or everything we say has the ability to positively or negatively affect people & push them towards or away from Christ.

**IN SUMMARY**

To reach our neighbors we have to:
1.) Change the lens we see people through. 2.) Get a right perspective of ourselves.
3.) Fight to put no obstacles in their way.

**PRACTICAL TIPS TO REACH YOUR NEIGHBORS**

1.) Build relationships with people you see frequently (stores, restaurants, work, school). 2.) Open up your home & practice hospitality.
3.) Commit to going long term with people.
4.) Use church invitations as an on ramp to relationship.

5.) Just ask the Lord to show you & obey what He says.

**PRAY!**

Four things to pray as we reach our neighbors:
1.) Help me to see people the way you see them & love people the way you love them. 2.) Help me to see myself as a missionary on mission to reach the unreached.
3.) Help me to put aside any stumbling blocks to others coming to know Jesus.
4.) Help me to have strategy in loving my neighbors & the courage to obey.