

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

OPENING QUESTION

Archbishop William Temple said the church, "Is the only society in the world which exists for the benefit of those who are not its members."

- Do you agree with this statement?
- Why or why not?

In today's study we are going to see how, fundamental to our Christian identity, is a calling to be an ambassador for Christ, living on mission to invite others to know and follow Him.

READ: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

- What are your initial observations after reading this passage?
- What is the big idea?

Now let's look at these verses in sections.

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

- What is the new perspective Paul is trying to give the reader?
- What do you think Paul means when he says we no longer see Jesus or others according to the flesh?
- What, according to verse 17, changes our perspective on how we see others?
- How has the Gospel changed the way you look at other people?

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

- In what ways are people alienated from God?
- Why does our being reconciled to God give us the ministry of reconciliation?
- If your primary vocation is to be an ambassador, a minister of reconciliation, how should this change the way you live?

John Stott said that every Christian is a missionary cleverly disguised as mechanic, teacher, or project manager.

- How does this quote change the way you see your vocation?

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:21

- According to verse 21, what is it that is being exchanged with Jesus on the cross?

The HEIDELBERG CATECHISM reads that in the moment of this great exchange, "God grants and credits to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never sinned nor been a sinner, and as if I had been as perfectly obedient as Christ was obedient for me."

- What should our response as Christians be to this beautiful picture?
- How does our response to this truth impact our mission as ambassadors?
- In what ways is God challenging you to live your life differently in light of today's study?

CLOSING

Take some time praying for one another, for your small group, and for Faith church as you seek to grow in your faithfulness as ambassadors for God.