

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

5. Motives for Reaching the Community



Introduction

In 2 Corinthians 5 the Apostle Paul says; “We are Christ’s ambassadors....we implore you....be reconciled to God.” Paul was urging people to turn to Christ because he knew they were lost. In the same chapter he gives other reasons why he felt compelled to preach the gospel. Although we may think we will never be like the Apostle Paul, these are the same things that should motivate every believer to share their faith. What are these motives?

- ☉ Why should we please the Lord according to 2 Corinthians 5:6-9?
- ☉ When we are born again we are not immediately taken to Heaven! We have a task to fulfil. What is that task? See John 17:15-18
- ☉ What is the fear of the Lord, and why should we fear him? 2 Corinthians 5:10-11
- ☉ What will happen at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
 - 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - 1 Corinthians 3:11-15
- ☉ What will the fear of the Lord motivate us to do according to 2 Corinthians 5:11?

If Paul only spoke of the fear of the Lord, we may feel that sharing Christ is just an obligation, and that we will be judged for not doing so. However Paul doesn’t stop there! He goes on to speak about the love of Christ. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

- ☉ What do you think the phrase ‘love of Christ’ or ‘Christ’s love’ means?
- ☉ How are we to see one another now we are believers in Jesus Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:16-17
- ☉ How are we to see unbelievers? 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

Conclusion

Now that we belong to Jesus, we have been given a new nature, one that wants to please the Lord. He longs for every person to come to know him, and calls us to represent him here on earth. One day we will stand before him, and knowing this should motivate us to live for him and do what pleases him.

However what motivated Paul above everything else was the 'love of Christ'. It was this love that compelled him. The more we comprehend God's love for us, the more we want to love him in return. It's his love in us that motivates us to tell others about him. May we know 'how wide and long and high and deep' Christ's love is for us! Ephesians 3:17-19

(Pray together again for those on your list, and pray for one another to know God's love in a greater way, so we will love others with his love.)