



Week 2

Sermon Series: Blueprints for Discipleship

Sermon Title: Discipleship Begins Here

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Group Week of: January 15, 2023

Sermon Date: January 21, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies	
Day 1	Motivation for Ministry – 2 Cor 5:11-15
Day 2	Made New – Romans 6:1-14
Day 3	The New Man – Ephesians 4:17-32
Day 4	Reconciliation – Colossians 1:15-23
Day 5	Paul's Commission – Acts 26:12-23

The Text

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Observe Everything.** Use pens and highlighters to mark the text. Come up with your own system of symbols, underlines, arrows, highlights, and notes, that will *help you understand and apply*. Only do what is helpful.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Textual Questions

- 1) In verse 16, why does Paul say that they no longer regard anyone from a worldly point of view?
- 2) How are Paul and his companions ambassadors for God?
- 3) How is it possible for man to be reconciled to God?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) What do you do on a regular basis that demonstrates you have come to truly believe in the gospel and have experienced the saving grace of Jesus Christ?
- 2) Is the answer to your first question evidence to *prove* that you are saved, or is it a *response* to God for saving you?
- 3) Why do Paul and His companions become *ambassadors* for Christ? And secondly, as ambassadors for Christ, what message do they preach as they represent Jesus?
- 4) Based on this passage, is every believer called to be an ambassador for Christ? Why or why not?
- 5) The Corinthians were already an established church. Why then does Paul tell the Corinthians, “Be reconciled to God”? Do people who are already Christians need to be called to reconciliation with God?
- 6) What sort of circumstances could a Christian be living in that would cause them to have a broken relationship with God? And secondly, how could a Christian be reconciled in such circumstances?
- 7) When we truly realize (or truly remember) that we have been reconciled to a holy God through the personal sacrifice of Jesus Christ, it changes the way we act and live. We want our daily life to be a testimony and a living example of the reconciling power of the gospel. We become ambassadors because at all points in our day, we wish to demonstrate the gospel. How often are you presently thinking, “I need to be an ambassador for Christ.” throughout the week?
- 8) The call to be an ambassador radically consumed Paul’s life. What do you need to give up in order to grow in being an ambassador for Jesus?
- 9) Who needs to hear the reconciling power of the gospel in your life this week? Pray that God would grant you the chance to share that with them this week.