



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Ambassadors for Christ

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:11- 21

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: In this passage Paul describes our motive for witness in the world by remembering the work that Christ has done and the ministry that he has given us. We now serve as Christ's ambassadors. The Corinthian readers, many of whom were slaves or impoverished, had to go through a paradigm shift to think of themselves as ambassadors. From their perspective an ambassador spoke on behalf of the Roman emperor, delivering his message to the people. An ambassador therefore carried great authority and great responsibility. God could have communicated his love to the world through any means he desired. For reasons that are unfathomable to us, he chooses to do his work through us. We are his method. We serve as his ambassadors communicating the message of reconciliation through Jesus Christ to the world.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians to teach them about their new-found Faith and to serve as an example to them—to the point that he tells them to "follow my example as I follow the example of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). In this passage he exemplifies the motive and method for carrying Christ's message to the world. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

Discussion Questions:

1. Paul's motives for ministry are expressly stated in these verses (vs. 11, 14, 21). How do such diverse motives fit together? In your own opinion, what are the motives for most ministers of our time?
2. In specific ways, how might a person's life look when he or she is living according to Paul's description in 5:15? Name and discuss few things that could make such life difficult to attain.
3. What does it mean to regard others "from a worldly point of view" (v. 16)?
4. How does this passage (especially v. 21) describe the reconciliation that God has provided for us?
5. Describe how our reconciliation to God (v. 18) and our transformation in Christ (v. 17) relate to our outward ministry (vs. 18-20)?
6. Consider our daily life, how does being reconciled to God (v. 21) relate to the ministry of reconciliation (v. 18) and the message of reconciliation (v 19)? What do you see as our role and our responsibility as "ambassadors" for Christ?

8. How can the combined motives of the fear of God and the love of Christ affect our incentive/motivation for sharing Christ with others?

9. God "makes his appeal" for reconciliation with others through us (v. 20), what responsibility do we have for the conversion of others?

10. Describe what it will mean for you to enter the next week with a transformed self-image (v. 17), living as one becoming "the righteousness of God" (v. 21), especially as it pertains to seeing yourself as Christ's "ambassador" (v. 20) to your world?