

Core Value 3: Engaging With The World

2 Corinthians

5:11-21

Hello from Zambia



2 Corinthians 5 v 20

- **“We 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.”**

Escaping the comfort cocoon

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.

2Cor 5.11

The other criminal rebuked him: ‘Don’t you fear God, since we are under the same sentence?’

Luke 23.40

- City life - looked after “from womb to tomb”.
- Nature - we meet God in mountain, sea and desert.

“The fear of the Lord”: We all have to appear before Christ to be evaluated. How disappointed with us he will be if we have not been good ambassadors for him.

Compelled by Christ's love

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 2Cor 5.14

He loved me, and gave himself for me. Gal. 2.20

- Is it really that personal?
- Does it touch my heart as well as my mind?

Christ's sacrificial love provides powerful motivation for witnessing. He went to the extent of giving up his life for us. Such love deserves (even demands) that we from now on live to please him rather than ourselves.

We are a new creation!

If anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation:
the old has gone, the new is here!

2Cor 5.17

“There but for the grace of God go I.”

(John Bradford, martyred 1 July 1555)

Christ is able to bring about radical transformation in people's lives. How great it is to see someone's life changed for the better by the power of the gospel!

The message committed to us

God reconciled us to himself through Christ – and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2Cor 5.18

We are Christ's ambassadors ...

We implore you on Christ's behalf ... 2Cor 5.20

A positive response to the gospel results in reconciliation with God and a renewed, fulfilled, abundant life.

How good it is to see people become friends with God!