



Sermon Series Notes

“Our Community And The Culture Around Us” 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

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Bullet Points,....

Beauty of Gods Word: 2 Cor 5:14-21

- Great Exchange Verse 21
 - Took our sin, gave us his Righteousness,...Etc

Christ’s love compels us, but these few Vs, 14-20 r rich

- We should no longer live for ourselves, But for Him
- From now on we regard no one from a worldly pt of view
 - Regard others as Christ regards us
 - Implications,.....Rom 5:6-10

Christ’s love compels us,....To be relational

- Tim, Don,..... and Wendy, Sebastian,.....Sybil
 - Drawing – Fellowship – Community – Creativity
 - As we regard others as Christ regards us

New Creations:

- Old Gone, new has come
- Wish all of the old had gone,....but it’s a process
- All this is from God

Ministry of Reconciliation:,...defined by an end of hostility

- Barely catch our breath and thrust into (Min o Rec)
 - Responsibility
 - Love Paul
 - 1st with each other, then to Culture around us

God making His appeal through us:

- Responsibility, Honor, Privilege, Thrill

Greeting and Prayer,.....Memorial Day Weekend

- **On this memorial day weekend,...**
 - We want to thank and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives to ensure our freedoms
 - We also want to thank those of you who are currently serving or have loved ones who are doing so
 - And we want to pray for those of you who are standing

Our Community & The Culture Around Us:

Read 2 Cor 5:14-21

Expound:

- **At the core of the good news of the gospel** is what has often been called the great exchange or
 - Imputation, meaning Christ takes our sin, gives us His righteousness
 - We are made a new creation on the basis of this exchange
- His righteousness,.....Our unrighteousness
- Right standing with God,.....Our separation from God
- His perfect life,.....Our sinful lives
- His perfect record of Zero sin,.....Our tarnished record
- His sacrificial payment,.....our unresolved debt
 - He imputed not only innocence but, also righteousness
 - Not only pardon, but also perfection
 - Not only died the death we should have died, but lived the life we should have lived
- We've been transferred from the impending death of this world, to the promised life of God's creational order
- Finally our perspective is altered so that we no longer focus on outward appearances but on a radical internal radiance
 - **Our love for Christ compels us,...**
 - To live for Him and not for self.
 - To view others, even those outside of Christ as He would

P.2

- We are forced to examine our sinful tendencies and humbly seek forgiveness as we understand our depravity
- All of this comes with a responsibility to pick up the gauntlet of reconciliation
- The ministry that is defined by an end of hostility
- Being now Christ ambassadors, God is making his appeal through us, saying be reconciled to God

Intro: / Article in Christianity Today (Data from 2010)

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary calculates that Christians sent out approximately 400,000 international missionaries in 2010.

The United States still tops the chart by far in terms of total missionaries, sending 127,000 in 2010,.....over 30%

- Brazil ranked 2nd with 34,000 sent, replacing S. Korea who had slipped to #5
- Per capita. In other words 1 missionary sent for every million church members
- U.S. ranked 9th sending 614 missionaries sent.

The other startling fact is that The U.S. has the most missionaries sent to it by other countries,.....32,400 (2010)

- In other words we receive almost as many missionaries as the #2 sending nation sends out

China is among the nations that receive the fewest missionaries

- The Gov't limits the number of missionaries that can come in
- Forces the Church in China to be missionaries and ambassadors to their own country
 - China's Christian population is one of the fastest growing in the world

P.3

In our current cultural situation we need to be doing what China is doing

- Develop missionaries with all the training and creativity that foreign missionaries receive
- Sacrificial investment and commitment to the calling the ministry of reconciliation

1 Pet 2:9,10 But you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood, a holy nation**, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Royal Priesthood,..... Bring people to God

A Holy nation,..... Chosen, set apart

- Chosen and set apart. Holy and distinct
- So there is a tension here between us bringing people to God and us being a chosen, holy, nation,
 - How do we enter culture and be relational like a missionary w/o losing our core values
 - Missionaries are called to live among them

1. We have entered a new era in America

- a. Once the church enjoyed great favor,
- b. Now, Christians are regarded as arrogant, intolerant, and irrelevant.
 - i. Many in our next generation don't want anything to do with Christianity and knowing God
 - ii. Many young don't have a clue what Christianity is
 1. Or even who Jesus is
- c. Unfortunately much of the Church today is either
 - i. Assimilating or vilifying
 - ii. This ministry of reconciliation will challenge us

P.4

As recipients of the largest group of Christian missionaries sent to a single Nation by the rest of the world

- **It means that the rest of the Christian world sees us as a Pagan Nation**
- How do we minister to our surrounding culture
- What is the answer

These two scriptures help me

Jn 16:12-14 I have much more to say to you, **more than you can now bear.** ¹³ But **when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.** He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and **he will tell you what is yet to come.** ¹⁴ **He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.** ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

- **Timing is everything** at this pre crucifixion time these guys could handle
 - There’s going to be a church of 3000 in one day
 - I will disperse you out of Jerusalem by persecution
 - I’m going to send Peter to the Gentiles
- **The Holy Spirit will guide** them into all truth
 - Take my words and give them to you
 - He will dispense future events as you can handle them
 - Their obedience to Jesus revealed will bring glory to Jesus

Gal.5:25 Since we live by the spirit, let us keep in step with the spirit

- **The exhortation to understand that the H.S. is moving forward**
- **Don’t settle into comfort zones that make us anemic and unproductive,....Keep up**

P.5

Secondly: this needs to be a two part equation

- A. **Our church community** has to become stronger, committed, selfless, loving , and serving,..... by meditating, pursuing, seeking, and falling more in love with Jesus
- a. **Striving not for favor, but from favor**
 - b. **Not I’m accepted because I obey**
 - c. **But I obey because I’m accepted**
 - i. Not self effort, but in response to His great Love for us
 - ii. The love of Christ compels us to love him and love each other

A. Continue to strengthen our Calvary Community

- iii. Doing the same things we've been doing
 - 1. Strong Worship / rightly dividing the word
 - 2. Teach through the word
 - 3. Line by Line / Word by Word
 - 4. OT mid week / NT week ends
 - 5. Communion and prayers services
- iv. Keeping the same ministries that strengthen the Body
 - 1. LGs
 - 2. Christian Ed
 - 3. Childrens ministries
 - 4. Youth Ministries
 - 5. Mens ministries
 - a. Men in the Word
 - b. Mens breakfast
 - c. Mens retreat / conference
 - 6. Womens Ministries
 - a. Salt & Light
 - b. Real
 - c. Women in the Word

P.6

One another Verses: on screen

Rom 12:10 Honor 1 another in love. honor 1 another above ourselves

Rom 12:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

James 5:9 Don't grumble against one another

1 Cor 12:25 have equal concern for each other.

1 Peter 5:5 All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another,

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you

1 Thes 3:12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for one another and for everyone else

1Thes 4:18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching

1 Peter 4:9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens

Heb 3:13 Encourage one another daily

Gal 5:13,14 serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love neighbor as self.

Then there is the exhortation to love one another which appears 19 different times in the new Testament.

P.7 B. Strengthen our Calvary community to Serve, Love, and minister to the culture around us

Thankfully we have some very vital ministries that do that

- 1. Keep doing what we are doing
 - a. Men of Arms / 1st Saturday of the month
 - b. Disaster Relief / Samaritans Purse
 - c. Campbell Park, Door of Hope
 - d. Prison Ministry, Skate Part

- e. Women of Heart
- f. Sports ministry
- g. Church Plants and affiliates
 - i. Palm Harbor
 - ii. South Side Calvary Chapel
 - iii. South Tampa Calvary Chapel

2. Canoeing the mountains / Tod Bolsinger

3. The evangelical Church in America is going to need creative ways to reach these unreached Americans

- a. I am not talking about seeker sensitive
- b. The relevant church
- c. Watering down the Gospel, just the opposite

How???? All about relationships

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is **faith expressing itself through love.**

Art Questions:

1. How can we help you at Feather Sound and how do you think we might Partner together in ministry.
2. The Missions department has had a huge impact in helping us grow as a missional church, give us a few of your personal highlights.
3. Finally as you leave for this new adventure what have you put in place to help us knowing that you have had this call on your life.

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