



Agents of Reconciliation – Leader’s Notes

II Corinthians 5:11-21

For the week of March 15, 2020

Background: The church in Corinth struggled to keep the ways of the world and the influence of false teachers out of their congregation. In this letter, Paul attempted to redirect their focus back on Jesus and the singular importance of His death and resurrection. Paul asserted his position as an apostle not on his merit, but on the basis of Christ’s work in him.

Discussion:

1. Missionary work was difficult and dangerous. What compelled Paul to continue his work of proclaiming the gospel to the Corinthians? (v.11) Paul had a deep respect and reverence for God, and (v.14) he knew the love of Christ which made it impossible for him not to share it with others.
2. Why are we in need of reconciliation to God? We sin against God and choose to live for ourselves (see vs. 15 & 19). Because of this, we are separated from Him and are in need of forgiveness and reconciliation.
3. What changes occur when someone accepts Christ into his or her heart? We become children of God, new creations free from the power of sin, and are now devoted to living for Him rather than for ourselves (see vs. 15-17).
4. Whose job is it now to share the good news of salvation with those who have not yet believed? (v.18) Those of us who have been reconciled to God have now been given the ministry of reconciliation. God is in us and wants to work through us to draw others to salvation.
5. What qualifies us to take on this mission? We have the same qualifications as Paul had. We have been saved, we have been given this high calling from God, and we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, His spirit of love, to motivate and enable us to preach the gospel effectively.
6. What are some ways that you find effective in sharing the gospel with others? Answers will vary. Some are more verbal and love to talk about the Lord with others. Some like to show Christ to others through a transformed life. “Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words.” (St. Francis of Assisi)