

CALLED TO BE AMBASSADORS

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 • July 25, 2010 • Dirk Small, Pastor

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

"Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. ¹² Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. ¹³ If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. ¹⁴ Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. ¹⁵ He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶ So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone, a new life has begun! ¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

Today's Main Point:

Otterbein Church is very deliberate in caring for the needs of our world, going anywhere with the message of hope, providing for the less fortunate and disadvantaged. As we consider all that we do as a church, we should ask, "Why?" "Why do we go, why do we give, why do we share?" The answer to these questions is compelling and the apostle Paul gave us, at least in part, an answer.

The Challenge:

God has called each of us to be an ambassador for Him. We need to get out of our pews, out of our classrooms and put our faith to work. We need to ask, "What am I doing for God and His Kingdom?"

The Bible Teaches: Why do we do what we do?

1. Because we understand our _____ . Vs. 11-13

- The fear of the Lord can be understood as a reverence for God. At Otterbein Church we want to please God. To do this, in part, we take seriously what God has for us to do while we are still here on this earth.
- Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, live in a way that pleases him and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul."

²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, Come back to God! ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

The Bible Teaches: Why do we do what we do?

2. Because the _____ of Christ controls us. Vs. 14-17

John 15:10-13

“When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

3. Because God has _____ a task. Vs. 18-20

“All my needs you have supplied, when I was dead you gave me life, how could I not give it away so freely?”

I’ll follow you into the arms of the broken, I’ll follow you into the world, I’ll meet the needs of the poor and the needy, God. I’ll follow you into the world.”

— Leeland

See youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ajlFfSaEzE>

Question to reflect on and take action on.

We’re all called to be Christ’s Ambassadors. What have I done recently to get the “job” done?

For more information about what it means to become a follower of Christ or what to do after you make a decision to follow Jesus, speak to one of the pastors or elders following the service today (they can be found by the prayer room in the church lobby) or contact the church office at 717-762-7147 to set up an appointment. You may also request materials and find additional information to help you on your spiritual journey on our website:

www.otterbeinchurch.org