

May 1, 2011

Willow Park South Small Group Questions

“Not So Secret Agents”
2 Corinthians 5:17-20

- Please read *2 Corinthians 5:17-20* together at the beginning of your small group meeting.

Paul writes to the church in Corinth that through Christ, God has reconciled Himself to us. When Jesus died on the cross, He restored to us the perfect relationship with God that we once obtained in the Garden of Eden.

In your own words define *reconciliation*.

What broke the perfect relationship that we had with God?

- **Romans 5:12** (ESV) “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”

Why does a broken relationship with God create such dissatisfaction?

How do people, by their own means, try to fix this dissatisfaction?

Who alone does Paul say reconciles us to God?

- **2 Corinthians 5:18** (ESV) “All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation”

What do these verses imply about the people in our communities trying to fix their dissatisfaction?

Just as Jesus reconciled us to God, Paul states that Christ also gives us the “ministry of reconciliation” (vs. 18). But what does taking part in the “ministry of reconciliation” look like?

What are the gifts that God has given you to help bring people closer to Jesus?

- Has God given you:
 - an ability to lead?
 - a heart for children's ministry?
 - a passion for prayer?
 - ect.

What possessions has God given you to help reconcile people back to God?

- Your house, your finances, ect.

Are you using your gifts and possessions effectively to further to kingdom of God?

As only Christ can reconcile our friends and neighbors back to God, what is our ultimate role in the reconciliation? For what purpose do we use our gifts and possessions?

- To tell people about the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross.
- **2 Corinthians 5:20-21** (ESV) *“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

Prayer and Reflection

Who has God placed in your life for you to be an ambassador for Jesus?

Are there any gifts/possessions that you are keeping for yourself instead of using for God's reconciliation?

Psalm 103:1-5 (ESV)

[103:1] Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
[2] Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
[3] who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
[4] who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
[5] who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.