

This Is No Time To Be Quiet Series

February 15, 2023

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2

Summary: When we practice Christ's Presence, we delight in introducing Him to others.

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE QUIET!

S: Evangelism

Th: Seeing the Unseen Christ: How His Presence Transforms Life

WHEN WE PRACTICE CHRIST'S PRESENCE, WE DELIGHT IN INTRODUCING HIM TO OTHERS.

Convictions

We will find in our study of II Corinthians 5:16-6:2 three convictions we have that causes us to introduce Jesus to others.

The conviction we have that causes us to introduce Jesus to others is...

I. WE WERE LOST (16-17)

16. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

17. Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

II. WE WERE CHANGED (17-19)

17. Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18. And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

III. WE ARE AMBASSADORS (19-2)

20. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21. For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

1. We then, *as* workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2. (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)

INTRODUCTION:

Does anybody know that you are a Christian?

Seeing the Unseen Christ—How His Presence Transforms Life.

Jesus is here!

When we are aware of this fact...

1. Christ's Presence impacts each of us and renews our convictions to live for His glory.

And the results are great!

Our worship comes alive and becomes powerfully real.

Loving each other becomes a priority, so much so that Christ's love routinely marks our interaction with each other.

We also have a new motivation to live righteously because we hunger for greater holiness.

We have a newfound zeal that is eager to serve the Lord.

Scripture comes alive and takes on added authority.

Prayer becomes the language of our heart.

Today, it is our goal to see that when we realize His Presence, we have a renewed interest in seeing others meet Him.

Do you remember how lost you were without Christ?

It was so different, but we forget.

We used to operate from the standpoint of the flesh, but now our perspective is the cross.

The old is gone.

The new has come.

Where once we wandered, we now have been set on the right path.

And it is worth telling about!

II. The second conviction we have that causes us to introduce Jesus to others is WE WERE CHANGED (17-19).

(17) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

(18) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

(19) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

1. Our lives have been transformed.

Christ's presence has transformed our lives.

We have been changed.

There has been a grand severance from where we were before.

But it is not a change that is once and done.

We are in a continuing state of newness and it will stay that way.

Our newness increases day after day.

But the neat thing about this is that there is nothing special about us for it to happen to us.

2. We are ordinary people with an extraordinary life-changing story.

That's all we are.

We are just normal people that were lost who have enjoyed the most extraordinary event.

We have been reconciled to God.

We were at war with Him, and most of us didn't even know it.

Nevertheless, we were.

But to make peace, Jesus died on the cross to satisfy the penalty of sin.

As a result, we have been given the ministry of reconciliation.

We are made right with God.

And now, we are at peace.

So, the peace God gives is worth telling about!

The point is that as we seek to bring others to Christ, we must begin here.

We are to pray, “Father, I can’t do it. But I know you can.”

Salvation is something only God can do, but He graciously allows us to communicate it.

III. The third conviction we have that causes us to introduce Jesus to others is WE ARE AMBASSADORS (19-2).

...And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

(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.

(21) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(6:1) As God’s fellow workers we urge you not to receive God’s grace in vain.

(2) For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.

1. We are God’s spokespersons, championing His cause.

The word used for ambassador here means, “one who spoke for the emperor.”

It was through the ambassador a message was delivered or a request communicated.

The ambassador reflected the agenda, convictions, truths, and causes of the one he represented.

In the same way, we proclaim what God has done so people can respond.

We point people to a life-changing and soul-changing relationship with Jesus.

We direct them to the possibility of reconciliation.

The price has been paid by the One who had no sin.

As the ambassador, we do more than proclaim the agenda of our emperor by what we say.

We also do it by the way we live.

2. We represent His character and nature.

Well, shouldn't He show through?

Shouldn't He show through now?

For as the text says, "...now is the day of salvation."

Now is the right time to share the message.

Let me recommend to you how you can...

3. Living a "Lighthouse Lifestyle" is an effective way of naturally introducing Jesus to others.

This is a non-threatening, but effective approach.

It has three steps: prayer, care and share.

3.1 Prayer

The first you can do easily.

Pray for those you know that don't know the Lord.

Pray for God's blessing in their lives.

Walk your neighborhood and pray for your neighbors.

Pray for your coworkers.

Pray for your friends in school.

Pray that God will move in their heart.

Then...

3.2 Care

You see, you tangibly prepare the way for the work of the Lord in their life.

When you pray for God's blessing, remember that you can be that blessing!

Look for the opportunities to demonstrate God's love in their lives.

There are many ways it can be done.

Be thoughtful and creative and show that you care.

Finally...

3.3 Share

When you pray, pray for opportunities to be an ambassador.

You see, when you pray for opportunities, you will look for opportunities to share the good news.

And if God's love has been demonstrated, the message will be all the more ready to be received.

It is a simple method—prayer, care and share.

2. This is no time to be quiet

Conclusion

Delight in introducing Jesus to others...for you were once lost as they are, you were also a hungry beggar looking for food—but now that you have found the food, it is time to tell others.

Delight in introducing Jesus to others...for you were transformed by the power of God; you are not the same as you were, for you are a new creation, renewed day after day by His Spirit in you.

Delight in introducing Jesus to others...for you are an ambassador with a message that is worth hearing from the King of kings and Lord of lords; this is no time to be quiet!