

## **Our Main Ministry 2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

### **Introduction:**

1. The church has many different ministries to many different people today. We have specialized ministries to children, teens, seniors, parents, single moms, etc.
2. These are wonderful ministries, but what is Crossroad's main ministry? What is the primary purpose for our existence? Why are we here? **2 Corinthians 5:18-19** has the answer for us.
3. God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. What a wonderful word!
  - “Reconcile” means “to restore to friendship or harmony, to settle, resolve.”
  - **Illustration:** Ever been out of sorts with your wife? It sure is no fun, but the reconciling sure is!
  - **Illustration:** Remember when you were dating and you had a fight and your stomach was in knots? But, oh, how good it felt after you reconciled.
4. The Bible teaches that mankind is out of harmony with God. It is because of a three letter word - SIN. Sin has separated and alienated man from a holy God. How many of us? **Romans 3:23** - ALL
5. But here is the good news - God has made it possible for every person to be reconciled and brought back into harmony with Himself. This is the main ministry he has committed to us as a church.
6. We are here to share with men and women how they, as sinners, can be reconciled to a holy, sinless God. This is our main ministry. How can we accomplish it?

### **First, we must never compromise the message.**

1. What is the message we are to share with people about how to be reconciled to God?
  - Notice in our text - Read verse 14-15 (Christ died and rose again), verse 17 (in Christ), verse 18 (by Jesus Christ), verse 19 (in Christ), verse 20 (for Christ), verse 21 (Christ became sin for us).
2. Are you getting the picture? What is our message? We are to be spreading the message of Jesus. Christ died for our sins and rose again, conquering death. In order to be reconciled to God, you must be "in Christ." How do you get in Christ?  
**Ephesians 1:13**
3. What a message we have to share! It is the simple, yet profound message of Christ. No longer do you have to fear death, or **hope** you will go to heaven, or try to work your way to heaven. The way has already been made by Christ. **Acts 16:30-31**
4. Satan will attempt to get us to water down or compromise this message, or muddle it with religious rituals or religious requirements and achievements.
  - But we mustn't do this because Christ alone can save sinners and then change sinners by His grace. vs. 17
5. There are so many hurting people out there in this world, struggling under a heavy load of guilt, pressure, addictions, marriage problems, etc. They need to know that there is hope, not in religion, not in sin, not in money - there is hope in Christ.  
**Colossians 1:27**

## **Second, we must understand the method.**

1. What is God's method for getting this glorious message out? Let's look at our text.
  - Verse 18 (reconciled us and given to us), verse 19 (committed unto us), verse 20 (we are ambassadors). Are you beginning to see God's method?
2. God did not commit the ministry of reconciliation to the trees, rocks, mountains, or ocean waves. He committed it to us. Once a person has been reconciled, God desires to use him/her to proclaim the message of Jesus to others.
3. Read verse 17. God saves us, changes us, and then sends us back out to the world to be His ambassadors and reach others with this wonderful message of Jesus.
  - “Ambassador” means “an authorized representative or messenger.” That is us!
  - Christ is gone (vs. 16). We now represent Him in His absence. We are His ambassadors. If people are to hear the life-changing message of Jesus, it will be through us.
4. Verse 15 - Once you experience His grace and are reconciled to God, God says that you don't just keep it to yourself and be an island to yourself. You share it with others.
5. Why is this? Because Christ died for ALL. If He can change your life, He can change your neighbor, your spouse, your friend, your family member, etc.
6. He didn't just die for people at Crossroads, He died for all. This brings me to my last point.

## **Third, we must never forget our mission field.**

1. Where do we take this awesome message of reconciliation?
  - Verse 14 (died for all), verse 15 (He died for all), verse 19 (reconciling the world).
  - As a church, what is our mission field? Is it Daytona Beach, Port Orange, Volusia County, Florida, United States, etc? Much bigger (vs. 19). What was God reconciling?
2. The world - that is our mission field. This is why there is a church at 1851 S. Clyde Morris Blvd. We aren't just here playing church. Our purpose, our mission, the main reason we exist is to reach out to this world and tell them of Christ's work that He has accomplished on behalf of lost sinners.
3. Paul didn't say that we are ambassadors to build buildings, have dinners, form softball teams, or have the best doughnut table in town.
4. There is nothing wrong with these things but we mustn't lose sight of our goal, our purpose for existence, and that is to be ambassadors for Jesus Christ and impact this world with the good news of Jesus.
5. We can have the best facilities, dynamic choir, active youth group, etc., but if we fail to reach the lost, we have failed miserably as a church.
  - **Illustration:** Wife sends husband for bread and he comes home with everything but bread - she will not be satisfied with that.
6. This is serious business. We have a mandate from God to go into this world and invade it with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.
7. Do you know what the great sin of the American church is? We have lost our hearts for the world. We have too many people with a church consumer mentality.

The result? Churches become more consumed with making themselves more comfortable than reaching out to a world in need.

8. We are here to reach people. This is what it is all about. This is why Christ came - people, people, people! When church members say, "I think our church is getting too big. I like a church where I know everybody." They are in essence saying, "We don't care about people any more. We've reached all we want to reach. Let's just play church now."
9. When a person says, "We are giving enough to missions. We don't need to give any more." They are saying, "Enough people have heard. Let's let all the other people die and go into everlasting destruction. No my friend - our mission field is the world!"

**In Conclusion:**

1. What is our main ministry? It is the ministry of reconciliation. We are to be about the ministry of telling lost sinners how they can be eternally reconciled to a holy God.
2. But it takes team work. It takes a group of people that are not self-consumed, but are simply in love with their Savior. vs. 14
3. Are you helping Crossroads accomplish our main ministry? Let's all get on board and impact this world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.