

The 5 Marks of Missional Living – Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:11-21 & Philemon

Introduction:

This is merely a discussion guide for you and your Life Group. There is not any expectation for you to be a Bible scholar or the wisest person in the room. The expectation is that you would pray to God, asking Him to illumine your heart and mind as you walk through these verses. Life Groups are designed to cultivate an environment where reading Scripture, engaging in prayer, and being in biblical fellowship will flourish. Facilitating such an environment is all that we ask, we don't seek perfection. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide you, and if you have any concerns after your group conversation, please reach out. Today we have two passages. They are 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 and the letter to Philemon. When utilizing The Moody Bible Commentary for this passage, you can find the content on pages 1814-1815 and 1917-1919. - JF

Questions:

Take a moment and think back to a time when you needed to seek reconciliation with someone. If you feel comfortable sharing, what feelings did you experience before, during, and after the reconciliation process? How would you define reconciliation? What areas of life can a need for reconciliation occur? How comfortable are you with seeking reconciliation with another person? Have you seen reconciliation done poorly? If so, what made it go poorly? Does reconciliation mean that all past offenses are forgotten? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. What is Paul's basic argument in this passage? Why did humanity need to be reconciled with God? How was reconciliation accomplished? What does Paul mean in verse 13 when he says "For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you"? What does Paul mean by saying that the love of Christ control Christians? How is this lived out? What does it mean to "regard no one according to the flesh"?

What is the ministry of reconciliation? How have you personally been fulfilling the ministry of reconciliation? What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? How does God make His appeal through Christians? What does it mean to be a new creation? How has the old passed away? What does it mean that God made Christ to be sin? What does Paul mean when he says that "in him we might become the righteousness of God"?

Read Philemon. What is this letter about? Who are the central persons in this letter? What does Paul desire for Philemon to do? How does this letter represent love, obedience, and reconciliation for all Christians? Why is this letter so important? In light of this letter, what should Christians take away from it regarding interpersonal relationships.

What are some ways to go about initiating reconciliation? What is the difference between reconciliation and forgiveness? Is there any relation that reconciliation has to peacemaking (*consider Matthew 5:9 – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*)?

Why is reconciliation a mark of missional living? Who have you seen live out reconciliation well? Of the five marks of missional living (*Evangelism/Witness, Justice, Intercession, Multiplication, and Reconciliation*), what has resonated with you the most? Which has been the most challenging to you? Why is that? How might you disciple other Christians in these areas? What additional passages of Scripture might you study for each of these marks?

Justin shared our message on Sunday. Is there anything he said that stood out to you that you would like to discuss? Is there anything else from our reading that you would like to discuss?

Conclusion:

As a group, you might consider spending the rest of your time praying for wisdom and understanding, asking God to help you know when and with whom to offer reconciliation. You might also take an inventory of how well you are doing as individuals and as a group when it comes to missional living (*not for acceptance from God or to earn favor, but as an outworking of your relationship with God*). Is there anything you need to incorporate into your lives? If so, what are they? What difference will these five marks of missional living make as you continue walking with Jesus?