

## Sermon Text Discussion 7/3/2016

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2 Corinthians 5:11-21: "Friendship and the Mission of the Church" by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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God has taken the initiative to reconcile us to himself—to make us his friends. He calls us to take this offer of friendship to the world. Through our words to our friends, associates, and neighbors God himself makes his appeal through us. Knowing both the fear and love of God, we see others as potential friends of God.

1. The message of reconciliation
2. The ministry of reconciliation
3. Motivations for missional friendship

### Quotations

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"We are not only called to be friends with God; we are called to make friends for God." -Drew Hunter

"My Christian life unfolded as I was just living my life, my normal life. In the normal course of life questions emerged that exceeded my secular feminist worldview. Those questions sat quietly in the crevices of my mind, until I met a most unlikely friend, a Christian pastor. Had a pastor named Ken Smith not shared the gospel with me for years and years, over and over again, not in some used car salesman way but in an organic, spontaneous, and compassionate way, those questions might still be lodged in the crevices of my mind, and I might never have met the most unlikely of friends, Jesus Christ himself." -Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) How clearly do you think you can explain the message of reconciliation?
- 2) Do you view your salvation as more than legal justification, but also as restoration of friendship with God?
- 3) What do you think it means in 2 Cor 5:20 that God makes his appeal through us? What is necessary for this to happen? How might this affect how you think about sharing your faith?
- 4) How does knowing that there is a coming judgment, and also knowing the love of Christ, affect your view of other people?
- 5) What do you think are the major obstacles in your life to sharing the gospel with others? What does this passage say to address those obstacles?
- 6) Drew said that intentionally sharing our faith with unbelievers is an *essential* part of being a disciple of Jesus. Do you agree?
- 7) Drew offered several practical suggestions. Make friends by incorporating people in your normal life activities. Share Christ with those you already know. Eat with others. Introduce non-Christians to your Christian friends. Be available in times of need. Share good books and offer to read the Bible with unbelievers. Try to be surprisingly kind to those around you. Which of these might you begin to practice, or practice more intentionally, as a result of this message? What other ideas do you have?