

The Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

You and I were made to worship. We were created with the capacity to bring glory to our great, holy, majestic God. That's why we exist. God made us and everything else for his glory. But, if we have this promised future as the result of our becoming Christians, why does He leave us here? Paul answers this question in today's passage:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 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.

I. We have a new _____ in Christ.

A. We are ____ Christ

Those who are in Christ have received Christ as both _____ & _____.

Jesus said, I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ~John 15:5

B. We are a new _____.

Not _____, completely new.

A new person:

Has a new _____ on life

Has new _____

Lives by new _____

Seeks new _____

II. We have a new _____ in Christ

A. We are Christ's _____.

An ambassador is a messenger or agent with a _____
Our mission is to represent Christ's _____ on earth until He returns.

B. Our message is Be _____ to God.

III. A Three Step Process for Sharing your faith

A. Use the power of _____

Ask God to give you the opportunity to share your faith.
Ask God to speak through you.

B. Prepare your _____

People are looking for something authentic, something that will make a real difference in their lives.

C. An easy method to share the message:

A _____ you are a sinner.

The Bible says, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ~Romans 3:23*

B _____ that Jesus died for your sins.

The Bible says, *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ~John 3:16*

C _____ your sins and C _____ your life to Christ.

The Bible says, *if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. And, everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved ~Romans 10:9-10, 13*