

WHY INVITE OTHERS TO HEAR OF JESUS?

COMPASSION//REVERENCE//LOVE

Sermon 3 – 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 “Love”

Introduction

- i. Why did Mark make the point that he’s not telling anyone to invite anyone to our invitational series? Doesn’t it kind of feel like he *is*?
- ii. Review: compassion and reverence – in what way might these two factors inspire us to invite someone to the upcoming series?

1. How clearly are you seeing? - read 2 Corinthians 5:14

- a. What does Paul mean by ‘one died for all and therefore all died’. Who is the ‘all’?
- b. How does such sacrifice, speak to us of God’s love?
- c. What happens when people feel they are *not* loved?
- d. On the other hand, what difference does it make in someone’s life, to know they are loved?
- e. Are you convinced that you are utterly and completely loved by God?

2. What’s your response to what you are seeing? – v15ff

Paul’s response to God’s love for him in the Lord Jesus is that he says such love compels him. It compels him to persuade others and to embark on the ministry of reconciliation!

- a. What typically compels you to be involved in *any* of your current activities?
- b. What have been the events or situations in life about which you just couldn’t wait to tell someone?
- c. What does ‘*he died for all that those who died should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again*’ mean?

As Paul realised Jesus had laid down his life for him, he wants to lay down his life for Jesus i.e. – to give his life into his hands entirely as an ambassador for Christ with the invitation from the King to be reconciled to him!

- d. Do you think we Christians today have difficulty in living out the fact that we are to live no longer for ourselves but for Jesus who died for us? What are the challenges in living totally for Jesus?

3. How’s your sense of God’s love?

- a. Mark claimed that when you begin to grasp the measure of God’s love for you, then you become a champion for him; you sing his praises, live to spend time with him; his causes become your causes; his passions, yours. This is what it means (at least in part) to be compelled by his love. Has this been your experience? (See Ephesians 3:17b-19). How? OR What do you think not?
- b. Compassion – reverence – love – three reasons we might bother to invite someone to the upcoming series. Do you think you are more likely to try and invite someone now than prior to this series? What have you learnt in these past three weeks?
- c. Pray together as a group for those people you’d love to invite. Pray that the Lord will go before you to make people receptive to such an invitation. Pray for love and grace and wisdom for you as you invite – along with courage and boldness. Ask yourself – ‘what is the worst thing that could happen if I invite this person’, then driven by compassion, fear and love – act!

Lord, give us compassion for others, such fear for you, and such a deep sense of your love for us that we are driven into action and actually long for the opportunity to invite someone in the coming weeks. And please go before us to prepare the way for such an invitation, by your Holy Spirit.

Date: 07 October 2018
Services: 730, 930 P and 930 T (via video)
Series: Why invite others to hear of Jesus?
Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
Title: Love

Outline

1. How clearly are you seeing?
2. How passionately are you praying?
3. Wk 1 How's your compassion
Wk 2 How's your reverence?
Wk 3 How's your love?

INTRODUCTION

Next Sunday we begin our special invitational series: *"If you could ask God anything"*

Three **Sunday sermons:**

1. Where's all the evidence?
2. Why aren't you more obvious?
3. Hasn't science disproven you?

Two Wednesday night seminars - Tewantin - 7.15pm

1. Why didn't you stop the abuse?
2. Why don't you end all the suffering?

We've been exploring why we should bother inviting anyone to any of these opportunities..

and I want to make it clear - I'm not **telling** you to invite anyone...!

I wouldn't like to think that you went out and invited someone else kind of *begrudgingly* - only because Mark **said** we should...

No - **here's** my prayer for us as a church - that **because** of what we've seen over these **past weeks** and what we'll see this **morning**... perhaps because of your heart and passion for years and years! -

...my **prayer** is that we are growing into people who have a very natural and **deep compassion** for the **harassed** and **helpless**

...have a desire to use **well** all that we've been entrusted with... including the **Good News** - knowing that we will give an **account** to the Lord... and because we have a holy reverence for the Lord, we will - **naturally** - **lovingly** - try to **persuade** others... that he's a **great** and **good God**!

And (after this morning), I hope you'll see that we are **loved so much** that Jesus' **death** means our **life**... and that his love for **us** and **those we love**, **compels** us... to plead with others, that they **too** might be reconciled to God!

So today's reason for inviting others to hear of Jesus?

Love... God's love for us... - 2 Corinthians 5:14

So - here's where we are heading...

1. How clearly are you seeing?
2. What's your response to what you're seeing?
3. How's your (sense of God's) love?

• So first:

1. HOW CLEARLY ARE YOU SEEING?

- Last week we saw that if you believe that there is God who **cares**... before whom **everyone** is **accountable**... a God who has the power to **separate** those who **love and trust him** from those who **DON'T**... then we **WILL** be driven to **persuade others**... so that **they** may find **life** and **forgiveness** through Jesus as **we** have done...!

- But it's not only **reverential awe** of God that drives **Paul**...
- ...it's **Jesus'** great love for **HIM**...
- v14 – have a look with me – *For Christ's love **compels** us, because we are convinced that one died for all...*
- Paul says he will try to persuade others about Jesus – not only because God ought to be **feared**... but because of the **awesome love** of the Lord Jesus...
- What **love** is **THIS**...!!! that he should lay down his **life** for **all**...! //
- For anyone who turns **back** to God... will be considered to have **already** died and been **raised** with **Christ**...!
- How?? – v21 – have a look - *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
- Brilliant... the greatest **exchange imaginable**...
- Jesus took **your sin**
- **You** gained Jesus' **righteousness**...
- That is **simply wonderful**!
- Paul says – we're **compelled** by that love... it **drives** us into **action**... it **urges** us **along**... //
- **Assuring** some one of someone's love for them is very **powerful in its impact**.
- The **orphan** who had grown up in an institution until they were 6 or 7 and then find themselves in a loving **home**... they had never **known** love like that before...
- The young man **estranged** from his father, who had found himself in all sorts of trouble, who discovered through a **chaplain** in jail not just that the **chaplain** loved him – but that we was **deeply loved by God**...! – it changed his life!
- The school kid who was always given a hard time because they didn't quite fit in, who discovers love and acceptance in the Christian group at school and then discovered **Jesus'** love for **her**!! //
- Some people move through life without **ever** knowing love... or only knowing love with **conditions**... //
- Friends there are **so** many people in **your lives** whose lives will be turned upside down – or **right way up** – if they know someone **loves** them like **Jesus** loves them...
- Loves them to such an extent that he would lay down their **life** for them...! //
- I hope **YOU know** – I trust **YOU** are **convinced** this morning – that **you** are loved like **this**...
- That **undeserving** though you **are**, Jesus has met your **deepest greatest need** – that is, to have your **sin** dealt with...
- And he's come into this world... and humbly **served** you by **dying** for you...
- So that **you died**... ie – if the wages of sin is **death** – than **because** Jesus **died** for you – your debt has been **paid** in **full**... in the **death** of **Jesus**, you have **died**... and in the **resurrection** of **Jesus** – **you** have been raised to new **life**...!!
- I hope you **know** that this morning
- I hope you are **convinced** of that.... //
- If you're starting to see that **clearly**...
- Let's look **second**:

2. **WHAT'S YOUR RESPONSE TO WHAT YOU'RE SEEING?**

- Well let's see **Paul's** response first and then consider **ours**.
- First, he says, Christ's love **compels** him...

- ... compels him to tell others
- He's a **driven** man – **driven** by the astonishing **love** Jesus **has** for people – to **tell** them!! //
- He is **SO moved** and **inspired** and **excited** by the love Jesus **has** for people – that he simply wants **other people** to **know** about it...! //
- When you find a good **solution** for something – you're **excited** to tell others...
- When you realise you're **loved** – so much so that that person is willing to **marry** you – you want to **tell** everyone!
- When you receive the '**all clear**' from the **doctor** – you want to **tell** people
- When you're **lost** and **alone** in an **underground** cave – but someone **cares** enough that they've come to **find** you and lead you **out** despite the risk to themselves – you want **others** to **know**!!
- When you've been jammed under **rubble** for three days after an **earthquake**, but your family and volunteers have **persevered** until they get you **out** – you want **people** to **know**...
- When you discover the definitive answer to **cancer** – you want to announce it **everywhere**!
- And when you were heading for **separation** from God in **eternity** – but Jesus has **died** your **death** so that your **debt** is **paid** and you can go **free** – and run to God **forgiven** and **reconciled** – you want to **tell the world**....!
- Hey everyone!...it's **true!** – there's **life** here – there's **forgiveness** through the **cross** – there's **power** to overcome **evil** – there's **help** for the **shepherd-less** – **here is it in Jesus**...! he loves us **so much**...!! Come and **see** – come and **see**!
- That's **one** response – he's **compelled** into action by **Jesus' love**.... //
- And then he wants us to know that once you see **clearly** that Jesus died for all... then you realise that your life is no longer **yours** to live how **you** want – but we live for **him** who **died** for us...
- Have a look with me at v15: *he died for all that those who died should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*
- he realises his life is no longer his **own** to do with what he wants...
- it **belongs** to **Jesus** – for **him** to do with what **HE** wants!
- That is – we are completely **new** people when we join ourselves to Christ
- Have a look with me at v17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*
- That's **YOU** – if you are a Christian.
- **A new creation!**
- That **old** you – dominated by **YOU**, lived for **YOU**, destined for **death**, has **gone**...!
- The **NEW** you – **you** for whom Christ **died**; **you** who by means of that death have been **relieved** of your **sin**; have been **reconciled** to **God**... you are **NEW**!
- Your life now **dominated** by **Jesus**... **lived** for Jesus!
- And you have a **new** distinct **role** and **purpose**...
- ...because – have a look with me at the second half of v19 *He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us!*
- You have been appointed an **ambassador**...
- You **represent** Jesus now
- You're the **ambassador** for **Noosa**!
- And in that role, you have one clear message: **"BE RECONCILED TO GOD!"**
- ... **BE RECONCILED!**...

- That is what the world **needs to hear**...! what **Australia** needs to hear... what this whole greater area of **Noosa** in which we live... needs to **hear**...
- ...**"Be reconciled to God!"**... "while it's still **possible**... while the **invitation** is still **open**... **BE RECONCILED**...!" ///
- So Paul's **response**?
- He's **compelled** into **action** by Christ's love
- He lives his life **entirely** for Jesus now – because he knows it **belongs** to **him**
- And he's involved in getting out the best, the most **urgent** news ever – **encouraging** people – as Christ's **ambassador** – to be **reconciled to God!** ///
- AND when **YOU** have grasped **Jesus'** love for you – such great love that he **laid** down his **life** for **you** –
- then **YOU** will be **compelled** by that **love** /
- **YOU** will recognise that your life now is to be lived entirely for **Jesus**
- And **YOU** will see **your** role as an **ambassador** for **Christ** – to get out the message in one way or another – **'be reconciled to Christ'** //
- So that brings me to our **last** question this morning:

3. HOW'S YOUR (SENSE OF GOD'S) LOVE?

- When you know you're loved by someone, you **change**.
- The first time you know you're loved by someone of the **opposite sex**... you're usually (unless something weird is going on... like you're being stalked or something)... you're usually **thrilled**...!
- When you see your **son** or **daughter** loved in this way – you see **them** change...
- They **flourish** – they grow in **confidence** – in **settled-ness**...
- Knowing you're **loved**, **changes** you... I referred to this earlier...
- Know there's someone who **cares** for you – is looking **out** for you...
- Knowing that in someone else's **eyes** – you **matter** – you're **special**...
- ...knowing that someone would put themselves **out** for you – that someone lives to **serve you** and put you **first**... well – that **impacts** you...
- And **you** then, become a **champion** for **them**.... You (as it were) **sing** their **praises**... you live to spend **time** with them.... **Their** causes become **your** causes – **their** passions – **your** passions... you **live** for **them**...
- Oh friends... do you see what **happens**?
- When you know you're **loved** by the **Lord Jesus** – when you've seen and understood his **death** in your **place**... so that you **died** and **rose again**...
- Then you begin to realise you're **precious**, you're **valued**, you **matter**... you're **significant**... and you **grow** in your **confidence** and sense of **well-being**...
- Knowing you're loved by **God**, **changes** you...
- Knowing that in the **Lord**, you have someone who **cares** for you – is looking **out** for you...
- Knowing that in the eyes of the God of the universe – you **matter** – you're **special**...
- ...knowing that someone would put themselves **out** for you – that someone **died** for you to put you **first**... and meet you at your **deepest point** of **need** – that **impacts** you...!

- When you **grasp that** - you then, become a **champion** for **God**.... You sing his **praises**... you live to spend time with **him**.... **His** causes become **your** causes - **his** passions - **your** passions... you **live** for **him**...!!
- And his **gracious kind invitation** - to be reconciled to him - becomes **your** gracious kind urging to **others**... *'be reconciled to him'*....
- And inviting someone along to a **talk** or **series of talks** in **Sunday** church or a **Wednesday** seminar - well - that becomes no big **deal**!...
- Because you're **compelled** by **his** love for **you**!! //

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- Why on **earth** would you **bother** to invite someone to our '**If you could ask anything**' series? //
 - Because you're seeing things **clearly**.
 - You're seeing those around us as **harassed** and **helpless**; as **sheep** without a **shepherd**, and you're developing a deep **compassion** for them.
 - You're also seeing clearly that you will answer to God for all that he's **entrusted** to you.
 - Your healthy **reverence** for God results in your wanting to use **all** that he's given you for his **glory**.
 - And you're seeing clearly the **depths** of God's **love** for you.
 - You are understanding more than ever that God loved you **so** much that Jesus **died** for you, and therefore **you died** (and then were **raised** with him).
 - **Such great love!** And because you're seeing that love **clearly** you feel **compelled** to share it with others so that they too may say '**because Christ died, I died**'.
 - You **long** to be part of the **ministry** of **reconciliation**.
 - Because with the Apostle **Paul**, you're **compelled** by his love!!

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- Of course it just may be the case that among us here this **morning** ... there are those who are **ready** to be **reconciled** to **God** today!
 - God has been **speaking** to you - **convicting** you - **waking** you up - **moving** you - **inspiring** you...
 - Perhaps for the **first time** you've seen clearly this morning that you're **so** loved by Jesus that he **died** for you!!
 - So I want to **urge** you to be **reconciled** : **THIS VERY DAY PLEASE** - **be reconciled to Christ**...!
 - **Come** to God... tell him you're so **sorry** for treating him so badly... and **today** - find the **forgiveness** and **relief** -the **JOY** - of having the sin lifted off your shoulders and being **welcomed** and **embraced** by God who loves you!!