

**Representing Jesus and His Kingdom**

Ed Stetzer

7.28.19

**Open in Prayer.****Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.**

There is a lot of division, outrage, brokenness, and confusion in the world. This is a lot like Corinth thousands of years ago. Ed tells us that through all the division we can still represent Jesus and His Kingdom.

1. We Get a New Perspective (2 Cor. 5:16-17)
  - a. We are no longer being shaped by the world's way. How does the world want us to see one another?
  - b. Gospel-lenses cause us to see others differently. What is the new way God wants us to see each other?
  - c. Read 1 Cor. 7:31. The Christian life is not about "trying harder," it's about receiving new life. How does this new life change our perspective?
  - d. Have your gospel-lenses gotten out of focus? How can you adjust them?
2. Sent on a Mission of Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19)

Part of our new life in Christ is that you have been reconciled and you have the message of reconciliation. This means we are to share the gospel with those around us.

  - a. Who shared the gospel with you?
  - b. Who have you shared the gospel with lately?
  - c. Do you find it challenging to share the gospel? Why or why not?
  - d. Ed said, "Don't let your life be a cul-de-sac on the Great Commission Highway." What does this statement mean to you?
3. Representing Jesus and His Kingdom (2 Cor. 5:20)
  - a. We are ambassadors for Christ. What is an ambassador?
  - b. Read Matthew 6:33. What are our Kingdom values?
  - c. Read Ephesians 6:19-20. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ specifically?
  - d. Ed shared the story of a man who was wrongfully imprisoned in Turkey. Once he was freed, he was invited to the Oval Office. In both places, he shared the gospel. In a Turkish prison or in the Oval Office, there is always an opportunity to represent Jesus. Where is your opportunity to represent Jesus?
4. Because of the Cross (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - a. Jesus didn't just die for our sin; He was also made into our sin. He died a sinner's death (**imputation** – Your sin was deposited in Jesus). Read Isaiah 53:6.
  - b. When you understand the cross, you understand the mission. This changes everything.
  - c. Have you said yes to the mission?