



Sermon Notes: "Beyond Them v. Us"

2 Corinthians 5:11-21; 1 Timothy 2:1-4

7.27.25

(Recap from last week) ECC's Focus:

- Go LIVE – Discipleship
- Go LEAD -- The Next Generation.
- GO LOVE – Evangelism

Who has God strategically placed in front of me that no one else can reach?

The Driving Force to Evangelism:

Christ didn't give us new life to sit idle in our salvation, but to live with boldness and courage for His mission.

A Changed Perspective:

- Remember We Are New Creations (v. 17)
- Remember We Didn't Earn It (v. 18a)
 - When we remember that we were once lost, we can't look down on *others* who are still lost.

So What?

BLESS Framework:

- **B - Begin with Prayer (This week)**
- **L - Listen with Care**
- **E - Eat Together**
- **S - Serve in Love**
- **S - Share Your Story**

Evangelistic Prayer Strategy: 1 Tim. 2:1-4

- A. Pray for All People, even difficult leaders (v. 1-2)
- B. Pray for us to Remember God's Heart (v. 3-4)

When you start praying for someone, you stop seeing them as a problem to avoid and start seeing them as a person God loves.

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; 1 Timothy 1:1-4

2. Paul says, "Christ's love controls us" (2 Cor 5:14). Be honest - what usually controls your reaction when you encounter someone with opposite political/world views: Christ's love, or something else? What does that tell you about your heart?
3. In 2 Corinthians 5:16, Paul says we need to stop "evaluating others from a human point of view." What does "human point of view" mean in our context? How do we typically evaluate people, and what would God's point of view look like instead?
4. Paul calls us "Christ's ambassadors" (2 Cor 5:20). Think about how a real ambassador behaves - they represent their country's interests while building relationships with foreigners. How should this change how we interact with people who feel like "foreigners" to our faith?
5. Paul told Timothy to pray for difficult authorities and "all people" (1 Tim 2:1-2). Think about someone in your life who's hard to pray for - maybe someone who's hurt you, someone you disagree with, or someone who just rubs you the wrong way. What makes it difficult to pray for that person? What would it look like to actually start praying for them this week?

Specific Action Step:

This week: The sermon connected "Who has God strategically placed in your path?" with moving beyond "us vs them" mentality. Think of someone in your life who feels like "them" politically or culturally. How might God want you to be His ambassador to that specific person?

Don't Forget:

- July 31st, 1:00 pm – Baby Shower for Judah Frey
- Aug 22nd -- Church Yard Sale
- Aug 31st -- Church at the Lake

Prayer:

Father in Heaven,

Give us Your eyes to see people as You see them - not as problems to avoid, but as people to love. Change our hearts toward those we find difficult. Help us be Your ambassadors this week, building bridges instead of walls. Show us our mission field right here in Wallowa County.

In Jesus' name, Amen