

## Discussion questions

- a. What's the most cringeworthy way you've experienced the Gospel being shared? Why was it so cringy? What did you learn from this?
- b. When the Gospel was explained to you, what was instrumental for you to understand it and accept it for yourself? Why was that so helpful?
- c. How does knowing that your identity is "*in Christ*" affect your daily living?
- d. What are the pressures you face to live by your "*performance*"? How might you adopt a "*position-based*" faith in those circumstances?
- e. In what ways does knowing that the Father is "*holy*" impact you every day?
- f. How easy is it for you to pray to the Father? If you struggle with this, why is that?
- g. How does knowing the Trinity's motivation both encourage you and challenge you?
- h. Can you clearly explain "*the message of reconciliation*" to an unbelieving friend?

## 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

- 11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.
- 12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.
- 13 If we are '*out of our mind*,' as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.
- 14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.
- 15 And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.
- 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.
- 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!
- 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
- 19 that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
- 20 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.
- 21 God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

YouTube

"Sharing Truth and Grace with Peter Blundell"

## ***“The message of reconciliation”***

Ambassadors of Christ, v20 – ministry and message, vv18-20

### **Two key foundations of Christianity**

**a.** Jesus: person, words, works and resurrection

**b.** Why did Jesus die?

#### **Definitions:**

*Sin*

*Sins*

Positional faith not performance religion

*“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me”, Psalm 51:5*

*Holy*

*“Our Father in heaven, Holy is Your name”, Matthew 6:9*

*Righteousness*

The Christian’s identity is *“in Christ”*

### **How do we move from the position of sin to the position of righteousness?**

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”, Romans 6:23*

## **The Gospel in one verse, 2 Corinthians 5:21**

*“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”, Matthew 27:46*

*“Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit”, Luke 23:46*

We are all new creations *“in Christ”*, v17

### **The Day of Atonement, Leviticus 16**

*“He shall then slaughter the goat for the **sin** offering for the people”, v15*

*“The goat will carry on itself all their **sins** to a remote place”, v22*

Scapegoat, v26

*To forgive* = to remove, Psalm 103:11-12

*“full assurance of faith”, Hebrews 10:22*

Christianity is exclusive, John 14:6

### **What was God’s motivation for doing this?**

*Father*, John 3:16

*Son*, Romans 5:8

*Spirit*, John 16:8