

**REVIEW LAST WEEK:** Last week we talked about how your belief in why you're here and your belief in who put you here greatly affects how you live here. Christ showed us how our identity is a reflection of God. We are God's workmanship and so we bear his image and reflect his image. Tonight though we ask what in the world do we do? If we have been made in his image and bear his likeness, what do we do?

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

**Summary & Explanation of Passage:** Paul is saying that the love of Christ controls us, it consumes us. The love of Christ completely consumes our lives, why? Because Christ has died for all & those who believe in him have died to themselves & live in him...

Christ died for the dead, the ungodly, the strangers, the sons and daughters of disobedience.... Jesus died so that we wouldn't have to live for ourselves... We no longer live captive to our desires and temptations... The power of sin has been broken over our lives, Christ now consumes every believer's life...

Paul goes on to talk about how Christ has made us a "new creation", Jesus has reconciled us to God so that we could have a ministry of reconciling others. Verse 19 says, that in Christ, God was reconciling us to Him...

He no longer holds our guilty verdict against us but Christ has taken on that verdict for us... Christ paid the blood debt that we owed...

### **2 Corinthians 5:20 - "We are ambassadors for Christ"**

Our belief in Jesus has made us ambassadors of Christ... meaning we stand on the behalf of Christ to others. We reflect Christ, we speak Christ, we live Christ, Christ is who we're about. If we're his ambassadors, we have to do something about getting His name known to other people

**MAIN IDEA: Your belief in Jesus will effect whether or not you live and speak the Gospel.**

*Tonight I want us to understand some things because either some of us have no clue what these topics mean or we have a misunderstanding of what they mean.*

***What in the world is Ministry?***

***What in the world is Evangelism?***

***I want us to be able to come away from tonight knowing those 2 words & letting them change how we do life.***

**What in the world is Ministry?: The Gospel Lived**

**→ What is ministry?**

Ministry is the act of serving others to show them the love of Christ. Simple as that. But when we think of ministry, we make the common mistake of thinking that only Chris, Pastor Stephen, Bro Bryant, those type of people can do ministry because its their job! It's not only their job...

That's what Paul says in Ephesians 4:11-12... "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ."

Ministry is a lifestyle devoted to making much of Christ and meeting the needs of others.

John Piper says that, "Whether we're bankers or bricklayers, [doing ministry] means that we aim at advancing other people's faith and holiness to the glory of God." So whether you play softball, whether you're in band, whether you run cross country, or whether you're just a student trying to do good in school... your goal as a Christian is to serve both Christians and lost people...

I know this doesn't sound like something we're too interested in... I know it sounds difficult and time consuming and hard... but its not as hard as we think... think of it as us living out the Gospel in our

lives. Us allowing the Gospel to infiltrate or to invade every area of our lives... Crazy, right?

→ How can the Gospel infiltrate our lives? How does Jesus give us an example of ministry?

Jesus gives us a crystal clear picture of what ministry looks like in John. I don't want to get too deep into this because you'll read about it in your devotions tomorrow, but let's set the scene....

Its the last supper. Jesus is just a few short days from going to the cross... He's been telling the disciples for weeks/months/years that he's going to die and rise again, but they still don't understand. However, Jesus wants to minister to them one last time before ultimately serving them on the cross. Jesus grabs a jug of water and a rag and begins to wash every single one of the disciple's feet. After some push back from the disciples Jesus says in the middle of verse 12...

READ John 13:12-17

Jesus is telling and showing the disciples how to do ministry. He lays down his authority and power to humble himself and wash the feet of those who aren't even really worthy to be in His presence. The

key in all of this is humility. It takes humility to wash feet that are dusty, dirty and gross. It takes humility to be able to do any of this. Jesus is demonstrating how our hearts need to be, and he tells the disciples that he wants that heart to be shown in them. If he wants it in them, he wants it in us.. so how do we do ministry with a humble heart?

→ How do we do ministry?

Is Jesus calling us to go and wash people's feet? Yes, while you're in the lunchroom tomorrow, go to your friends lunch table, remove their socks and wash their feet!

Really though, we don't do that cause that's gross and that's not what Jesus meant... Jesus has called us to do ministry with humble hearts. In order to serve others we have to live and act selfless. How can you do this in the life of an every day student? How can you do this in the life of an every day athlete?

Serve your classmates... Do something out of the ordinary, take the lunch trays by choice, help them study something they're struggling with

Serve your teammates... Help them understand the plays or the reads better, encourage them for how they're doing, and push them to be better.

Those are really just a couple of ways to serve. But serving just looks like showing your friends, classmates, teammates, whoever the love that Christ has shown you.

What in the world is Evangelism?: The Gospel Spoken

→ What is evangelism?

Evangelism is telling others about the grace we have found in Jesus. It doesn't look like rehearsed presentations, awkward door-to-door meetings, handing out tracts. No, Evangelism is just talking to other people about Jesus... talking to other people about your faith.

We see this clearly in the Bible! Have you ever thought about the fact that that's what the whole New Testament is basically about? The books of the Bible you've probably read over the most are about evangelism. We see Jesus being an example of evangelism in the Gospels. The book of Acts is all about the new church spreading and taking the Gospel to the nations in the midst of persecution. The epistles are about apostles writing letters to

churches telling them how the Gospel radically changes their lives.

In Matthew 28, Jesus gave one final command before ascending to heaven, “go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” Jesus says in light of how you’ve seen me love humanity, in light of all that I’ve done to you and the grace that I’ve shown you through the healings, the preaching, and the cross, because the heart of the Gospel has come to fulfillment, go and share this message with other people.

He immediately wants His disciples to share the beautiful and magnificent grace and love that they’ve experienced.... And he wants the same thing for us... evangelism doesn’t stop with the apostles or the old people we read about in the Bible.... It continues with us... But it can be hard sometimes...

→ Why is evangelism awkward?

Have you ever heard the saying, it’s only awkward if you make it awkward? Well that’s true here... we make it awkward. We make the idea of talking about our faith a foreign idea because we never do it... with anyone... we don’t do it with our parents, our friends,

and we sure wouldn’t do it with our siblings. We have to start talking about it!

We are at the beginning of the most wonderful time of the year.. COLLEGE FOOTBALL SEASON. Every Sunday we can come in cracking on how Alabama has the easiest schedule in college football, how an unranked team almost beat a top 10 team, or how some people think Jake Fromm is the best QB in the game....

That’s a good and fun thing to talk about! You can talk about football, what you did this past weekend, memories, but where does your faith and the Gospel fit in to your everyday conversations. What are you learning? How are you growing? How have you seen God be faithful in your life today? We can make evangelism become easier when our faith in Christ becomes a part of our everyday conversations. And we’ll start doing that when we truly realize just how much Christ has loved us. If we understand that, we’ll realize the importance of talking about this message.

→ Why is evangelism important? Turn with me to Romans 10:11-15... Paul has been explaining to the Romans how God is in control of absolutely everything, Paul explains how God is the only one

who brings salvation... but we're the vessels he uses to spread his message... Let's read it...

**READ Romans 10:11-15**

Essentially, what Paul is saying is that people are dying without hearing the message of the Gospel **every single day**. That means people are dying and going to **Hell** every single day, and they may have never even heard a word of the Gospel...

you know who that's on? That's on us. We can't blame God for that... We can't blame God for us not doing what He's told us to do. God has chosen us to be the feet of the Gospel

We like to live in this little bubble thinking that everyone we come in contact with is a Christian... Guys most of your peers at school, are lost... most of the people in America, are lost... most of the people in the world, are lost... How is anyone going to hear the Gospel, be saved from their sins, and trust in Christ if you aren't telling them about it...

**GO! TALK! PREACH THE GOSPEL!!!**

Stop just making small talk because your scared of the awkwardness. Have conversations with your friends that talk about your faith and how the Gospel has and is changing you!

Has anyone ever heard of Penn & Teller? They're famous magicians that travel the world and combine comedy with magic. They're atheists, so they don't believe there is a God, but Penn had something to say about people who don't share the Gospel...

"I've always said that I don't respect people who don't proselytize. If you believe that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward... how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?"

So the question is, do you love people? Do you love the people you're around in your everyday life? Essentially, evangelism & ministry is just loving the community God has put you in. Are you going to do that?

Real quick, everybody take out your phones. I want you to think of someone that you know that needs the Gospel... type that person in a note.

Think about the question Penn asked... "How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?" Serve that person, share the Gospel with them. Just love them. Don't let that person be forgotten... pray for them and pursue them with the Gospel. That's doing evangelism and ministry.

On your cards you have a couple of questions...

**How can you serve the people in your community?**

That means the people in the city of Carrollton, the people at your school, the people on your team, the people here at RRBC.

**How does Romans 10:11-15 push us to preach the Gospel?**