

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (ESV)

What is evangelism? God making his appeal through us_Imploring people to to be reconciled to God. (vs 20)

6 ways God orders our lives to become ministers of reconciliation.

1. RECOGNIZE THAT LOVE IS THE GREAT MOTIVATING FACTOR IN REACHING OUT TO OTHERS.

"We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV)

ACTION STEP: Ask God to give you a deeper love for other people.

2. DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS – INVEST YOUR LIFE IN OTHERS.

1 John 4:19 We love because he first loved us.

So, being affectionately desirous of you, (because we loved you) we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. 1 Thessalonians 2:8 (ESV)

Action step: Invite someone to your small group. (plan a party) Open your home. (hospitality) Invite them to Taste of Christmas. Super bowl party. To church.

3. RECOGNIZE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

"because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. " 1 Thessalonians 1:5 (ESV)

"When he [the Holy Spirit] comes he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness . . . But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth" John 16:8,13 (NIV).

4. PRAY

"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved." Romans 10:1 (ESV)

Never give up praying. Some things you can pray for.

- Pray for God's Spirit to work in their life. To convict them of sin.. need for the Savior. (John 16:8)
- Pray for love to be demonstrated in your church. (John 13:35)
- Pray for unity in your church (John 17:20-21)
- Pray you will have boldness to share your faith at the right time. (Ephesians 6:29)

5. TELL YOUR STORY

"But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you— from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted. 1 Peter 2:9-10 (MSG)

Action step: write out your story. Obviously – don't tell them your life story – but be able to share in 3-4 minutes the difference God has made in your life.

6. LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ. Philippians 1:27a (ESV)

" You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers." 1 Thessalonians 2:10 (ESV)

Our Final Action Step – Pray these 3 words. "God, use me to show others how much you love them and how you have changed my life.