

Who Am I? Part VI

"Christ's Ambassador"

2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on October 21, 2018

Entering In:

Share one mystery about Christianity that you think defies understanding.

1. What two motives does Paul mention for *trying to persuade men*? (v.11, 14)

Who was Paul referring to when he mentions "those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart" (v.12)? (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2:17; 10:12; 11:14, 15)

What do you think *their* motive was?

What does he hope the true believers at Corinth will recognize and do for him? (v.12)

What do these men apparently think about Paul? Why? (v.13a)

On what occasion did men say the same thing about Jesus? (Mark 3:21-22)

On what specific occasion did someone say this about Paul? (Acts 26:24-25)

Have you ever been slandered in such a way that people who know you well began to "wonder about you"? How do you regain your standing with your friends?

Paul says, "We persuade men ..." Of what is he trying to persuade them?

- A. of their need to be reconciled to God
- B. of his personal integrity and the authenticity of his apostleship
- C. of his sanity
- D. other

2. What exhortation does Paul give in verse 15b? On what grounds does he make this exhortation? (v.14b, 15a)

When Paul uses the word *all*, is he speaking of *all* men, or just *certain* men?

3. What good news does Paul proclaim in verse 17?

In verse 17, Paul says, "If anyone is *in Christ* ..." This is a formula he often uses in his epistles. What is implied in this formula?

- 1 Peter 2:24
- Matthew 3:17; 17:5
- John 11:25
- Romans 8:17
- 1 John 3:1
- John 8:31-32

What is the only reasonable conclusion that can be drawn from the fact that there are now people who are *in Christ*?

- Galatians 6:14-15
- Ephesians 2:10
- Ephesians 4:24
- 2 Corinthians 4:6

When did the old things pass away?

What are the *old things* that have passed away?

Besides us, what else is (will be) made new? (Romans 8:19-21; Revelation 21:4ff)

Who is responsible for this renewal, from beginning to end?

4. Paul speaks of reconciliation in verses 18 and 19. What relationship was restored?

What does it mean to be reconciled to God *through Christ*?

What does our reconciliation to God imply about our relationships in the church? (cf. Matthew 5:9, 23, 24)

Is there someone in your life with whom you need to be reconciled? What is keeping you from being reconciled?

5. What does it mean to be an ambassador (vs. 20)?

What does it mean to be Christ's ambassador?

How are you fulfilling your commission as Christ's ambassador?

6. What does each phrase of verse 21 mean to you?

- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us
- so that in him
- we might become the righteousness of God

Each of the following statements is a false interpretation of 5:21. Explain why they are false.

- God made Christ a *sinner*.
- In Christ we are made righteous.

Living It Out:

Pray for one or two who need to hear the message of reconciliation.

Pray that God may use you to bring it to them this week.