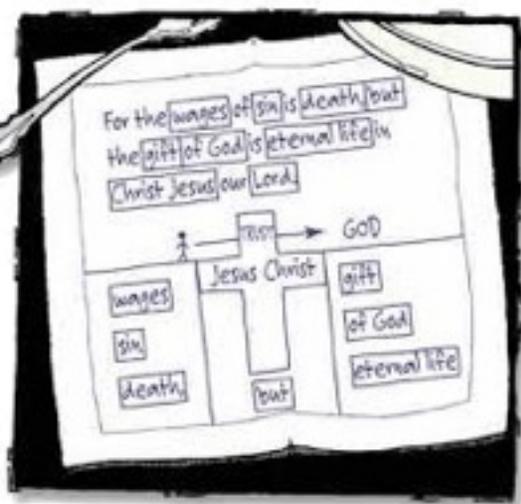


Evangelism - Compelled by Love - Joy Schroeder

Jesus Christ, God Himself, came to earth to show people what God is like. ... *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father John 14:9.* Even more remarkable, He came to pay the price that was necessary to reconcile people to Himself. Jesus came to where people lived and worked. He came as a human being, fully identifying with their humanity. He came speaking their language, so they could understand. He even told His message in stories using familiar images from their daily life, so they would remember and ponder. He exerted Himself to the utmost to communicate who He was and how to restore loving relationship with Himself. He communicated; He was, and is, the Word. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14*

God's central motivating focus remains the same: to communicate to people who He is and how to live in purposeful, restored relationship with Him, the message of reconciliation. But He has turned over to you and me the communication of that message. *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 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. 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. 2 Corinthians 5:18- 20*



You are Christ's ambassador, His representative. Therefore, when you appeal to people to be reconciled to God, do it as Jesus modeled. Communicate in a way that people can understand— not in the way you understand. In order to do this, you must climb into their brain, listen carefully to their views, try to understand their perspective, and find meaningful ways to bridge the message into their life. Pray, even in the midst of a conversation, that God will give you insight as to how to communicate His message to them. Listen to Him, and obey what He tells you.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

What was the apostle Paul's goal?

What was his strategy?

To become all things to all people does not mean to sin like they do so that they will feel comfortable with you. Because you are Christ's ambassador, you belong to the Kingdom of light. You must maintain the standards of God's Kingdom, though not self-righteously. People who love darkness will not be comfortable around the light because the light exposes their hearts. Jesus spent time with sinners without sinning. If you love people, even though you do not sin with them, they will know Jesus has been near. Ask Jesus to show you how to do it in your situation. Then, do what He tells you.

Read 1 John 4:10- 11

What motivated God to pay the price for reconciliation?

What ought to be your response to His love? (verse 11)