Responsibility To Others Pt. 3 sermon for 5-7-17

**Responsibility to the Lost**

Let’s review the past two weeks’ subjects in our Responsibility to Others Series…

1. Responsibility to Love
	1. Law of Love
	2. Loving others is loving God
2. Responsibility to Bear Others’ Burdens
	1. We are responsible to endure the burden of correction when a Christian brother or sister is overtaken by a moral fault.
		1. The idea of Biblical correction is to lovingly bring the erring person to a place where they are able to fulfill God’s purpose for their life.
		2. Any who wish to restore a fallen brother or sister must examine his or her own work making sure that it is genuine and sure.
	2. But we are not to take responsibility for their load.

And today, for the final sermon in the series, we will discuss our responsibility to reconcile the lost.

By lost I mean anyone who

1. Does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God
2. does not believe that Jesus died for their sin
3. does not believe that Jesus bodily rose from the grave three days after dying
4. has not experienced a Holy Spirit-driven life transformation
5. follows other gods

The Bible says that any like this are in darkness and therefore are lost not knowing the way they are to live and be.

Not only do we have a responsibility to fellow believers, we have a responsibility to the lost.

**Responsibility to Reconcile the Lost to God**

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21** (NKJV)

**17**Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **18**Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19**that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

**20**Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. **21**For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Now that God has made things right with us through Jesus Christ we have the ministry of reconciliation.

What does reconciliation mean?

Reconciliation happens when two people who have differences and grievances, change their position creating common ground where a friendship can grow.

**We have the duty of serving the lost in bringing them to a place—by conversation and/or influence—where they consider their position towards God and His position towards them.**

**As you serve those who are not Christians, don’t define them by their sins; look beyond their mess and see spirit in need of a Savior—the lost child in need of their Heavenly Father.**

“…that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

What is the word of reconciliation?

**The word of reconciliation is reasoning with people to get right with God by believing in Jesus.**

In fact, it’s the same word used in John 1 referring to Jesus being in the beginning with God.

The word of reconciliation is Jesus; we are to share Jesus with people.

**The word of reconciliation is not a hyped-up message of what someone can get out of Jesus if they believe in Him as their Savior.**

“We don't need something more. We don't need something better. We're after life. We're learning how to live. I think people are fed up with consumer approaches, even though they're addicted to them. But if we cast the evangel in terms of benefits, we're setting people up for disappointment. We're telling them lies. This is not the way our Scriptures are written. This is not the way Jesus came among us. It's not the way Paul preached. Where do we get all this stuff? We have a textbook. We have these Scriptures and most of the time they're saying, "You're going the wrong way. Turn around. The culture is poisoning."

—Eugene Peterson

# 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (MSG)

**16-20**Because of this decision we don’t evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don’t look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We’re Christ’s representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God’s work of making things right between them. We’re speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he’s already a friend with you.

**21**How? you ask. In Christ. God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we could be put right with God.

Now that we are a new creation in Jesus, our responsibility to all those who are not a new creation in Jesus is to tell them of our recreation story.

**We can tell them that because Jesus died for our sins and raised from the dead, they can become friends of God instead of enemies.**

**Conduct towards Unbelievers**

# Colossians 4:5-6 (NKJV)

**5**Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. **6***Let* your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

* Conduct yourself wisely.
	+ **Understand that how you treat them paints a picture of how Jesus treats them.**
	+ Know when to speak, listen, or walk.
* Conduct yourself towards them, not with them.
	+ **Unbelievers are not a part of Christ; don’t be surprised that there is a separation between you and unbelievers and don’t try to erase that separation.**
* Conduct yourself diligently.
	+ Don’t hesitate to share the word of reconciliation when the time is right.
* Conduct yourselves graciously.
	+ No gossip, slander, or favoritism.
* **Conduct yourselves knowledgeably.**
	+ Know your story of why you believe in Jesus as your Savior, what difference He has made in your life, and what He is doing in your life right now.
	+ Be aware of the questions people may have and study the Bible for answers.
	+ If you don’t know something, say, “I don’t know, but I can think about that and would like to talk about it again sometime.”

# John 4:7-42 (MSG)

**7-8**A woman, a Samaritan, came to draw water. Jesus said, “Would you give me a drink of water?” (His disciples had gone to the village to buy food for lunch.)

**9**The Samaritan woman, taken aback, asked, “How come you, a Jew, are asking me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?” (Jews in those days wouldn’t be caught dead talking to Samaritans.)

**10**Jesus answered, “If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.”

**11-12**The woman said, “Sir, you don’t even have a bucket to draw with, and this well is deep. So how are you going to get this ‘living water’? Are you a better man than our ancestor Jacob, who dug this well and drank from it, he and his sons and livestock, and passed it down to us?”

**13-14**Jesus said, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life.”

**15**The woman said, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t ever get thirsty, won’t ever have to come back to this well again!”

**16**He said, “Go call your husband and then come back.”

**17-18**“I have no husband,” she said.

“That’s nicely put: ‘I have no husband.’ You’ve had five husbands, and the man you’re living with now isn’t even your husband. You spoke the truth there, sure enough.”

**19-20**“Oh, so you’re a prophet! Well, tell me this: Our ancestors worshiped God at this mountain, but you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place for worship, right?”

**21-23**“Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you Samaritans will worship the Father neither here at this mountain nor there in Jerusalem. You worship guessing in the dark; we Jews worship in the clear light of day. God’s way of salvation is made available through the Jews. But the time is coming—it has, in fact, come—when what you’re called will not matter and where you go to worship will not matter.

**23-24**“It’s who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.”

**25**The woman said, “I don’t know about that. I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we’ll get the whole story.”

**26**“I am he,” said Jesus. “You don’t have to wait any longer or look any further.”

**27**Just then his disciples came back. They were shocked. They couldn’t believe he was talking with that kind of a woman. No one said what they were all thinking, but their faces showed it.

**28-30**The woman took the hint and left. In her confusion she left her water pot. Back in the village she told the people, “Come see a man who knew all about the things I did, who knows me inside and out. Do you think this could be the Messiah?” And they went out to see for themselves.

**Skip to verse 39**

**39-42**Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him because of the woman’s witness: “He knew all about the things I did. He knows me inside and out!” They asked him to stay on, so Jesus stayed two days. A lot more people entrusted their lives to him when they heard what he had to say. They said to the woman, “We’re no longer taking this on your say-so. We’ve heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He’s the Savior of the world!”

# Proverbs 14:25 (NKJV)

**25**A true witness delivers souls,
But a deceitful *witness* speaks lies.