

III: A RECONCILING VIEW

CAUSE & EFFECT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Intro Video = "Cause & Effect Intro Video 2019" (0:29)

(Water drain pic) "Wherever you may be in the Northern Hemisphere, bathtub water will form a vortex as it goes down the drain -- almost always spinning in a counterclockwise direction. But in the Southern Hemisphere, the bath water will spin in a clockwise direction as it runs away. One in a few centers of population where the tub's plughole is directly on the equator, such as Nanuki in Kenya, will the water run away twisting as often one way as the other or forming no vortex at all." (Magnus Pyke, Butter Side Up!, Sterling.)

(Title pic) Just like water draining a certain way depends on where you live, who you are today depends partly on where you were born. What if you were born black? Born Hispanic? Born poor? Born rich? Born in Russia? Born in America? We can't control who we naturally are but we can control how we see others! Welcome to the "Cause and Effect" of our point of VIEW:

I. It's All About Perspective

a. From Our Perspective

- i. What does "perspective" mean? (Students share)
- ii. Perspective = "viewpoint, outlook, side, take"
- iii. We all have different viewpoints on life... like this side (left) sees my worse side, and this side (right side) sees my better side
- iv. But we all see from our own eyes (our own perspective) = different from others, like this point of view pic about number 6 or 9 (Point of view pic)
- v. The problem is not that we have different points of view, it's when we judge others from our viewpoint!
- vi. Would you consider yourself a judgmental person like me, honestly? (Students raise hands)



1. We tend to form judgments about people's attitudes and personalities
2. We put people in categories (Skin color, economic status, political opinions, religious views, etc)
3. "Us" and "them" mentality (but we have a lot in common with others)
4. Somebody once said it like this (perspective quote pic):

"When the other person acts that way, he's ugly...
 When you do it, it's nerves.
 When she's set in her ways she's obstinate...
 When you are, it's just firmness.
 When he doesn't like your friends, he's prejudiced...
 When you don't like his, you're showing good judgment.
 When she tries to be accommodating, she's apple-polishing..
 When you do it, you're using tact.
 When he takes time to do things, he's dead slow...
 When you take ages, you are deliberate.
 When she picks flaws, she's cranky...
 When you do it, you're discriminating."
 (Anonymous, Christopher News Notes, June 1992)

- vii. Keeping in mind this idea of "reconciliation"... we have been reconciled to Christ and need to reconcile others to Him too (Cause & Effect)
- viii. Our judgmental associations don't spring exclusively from the love of Christ and don't always lead us where God wants us to go
- ix. We need a change in perspective:

2 Corinthians 5:16 = "From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. (NIV)

b. From God's Perspective

- i. We (everyone) are united in a common Savior
- ii. Everyone is everyone!
 1. Pastor Chris mentioned it a couple weeks ago = **Romans 10:13** = "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NLT) = EVERYONE!
- iii. If all are sought by God, they should also be sought by God's ministers of reconciliation (us)
 1. Remember = it's our calling! (2 Cor. 5:18)
- iv. God wants reconciliation with everyone
- v. God's point of view is to be ours

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide

II. It's All About Reconciliation

a. Cause: Changed By Jesus



- i. Let me just remind us what 2 Corinthians 5 is all about... "[Jesus] died for all" (v.15), "no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (v.15), "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer" (v.16), "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (v.17), "gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (v.18); 19 "reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them" (v.19).
- ii. This is forgiveness, true love, no more judgment! He doesn't want to judge our sin, He loves us!

(cookie packages pic) While waiting at the airport terminal for her plane to begin boarding, a woman sat reading a newspaper. Earlier, she had purchased a package of cookies in the airport snack shop to eat after she got on the plane. Out of the corner of her eye, she noticed that the man sitting next to her was eating a cookie. She looked down and noticed that her package of cookies had been opened and the man was eating them.

The woman couldn't believe that the man would have such nerve as to eat her cookies. So that she wouldn't lose all of her cookies to the man, she slowly reached over, took a cookie, and ate one herself. To her amazement, the man continued to eat more cookies. Getting more and more irritated, the woman removed all but one cookie from the package and ate them.

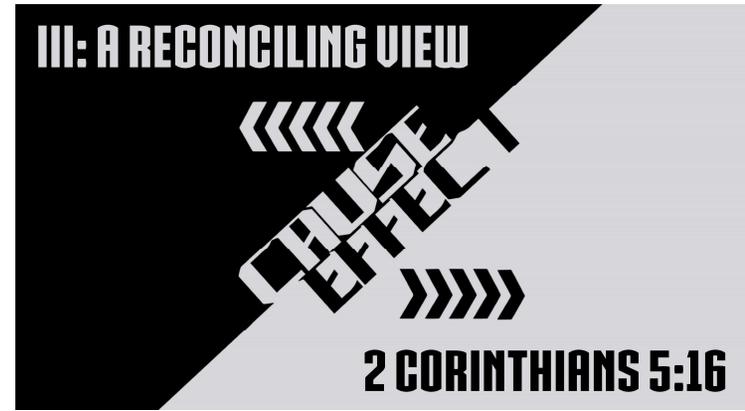
At that point, the man reached down and took the last cookie. Before eating it, though, he broke it in half and left half of the cookie for the woman. This made the woman so angry, she grabbed the empty package with the half cookie and crammed it in her purse.

Then, to her shock, she noticed that there in her purse was her unopened package of cookies.

Sometimes when we judge or condemn others, we end up judging or condemning ourselves. The Bible speaks of this in Luke 6:37: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned." Have you ever been too quick to pass judgment on another? When we do that, we put ourselves in a precarious and often embarrassing position. Check out all the facts, ask questions, listen carefully, and give people the benefit of the doubt. (*Hot Illustrations 1.0, The Cookie Snatcher*)

b. Effect: Change Our Perspective

- i. "If the only tool you have is a **hammer**, you tend to see every problem as a nail." (Abraham Maslow)
- ii. How can your perspective look more like God's?



Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Read: "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view." (2 Corinthians 5:16, NIV)

Review: We all can be so judgmental at times! Tonight we looked at our own point of view and how that compares with God's point of view. We need His point of view when it comes to reconciliation.

React: Show the attached picture & ask: what is your first thought when you look at this homeless man? What do you think God's point of view of this man is? How can we make our point of view like God's?

Leader's Notes:

III: A RECONCILING VIEW

CAUSE EFFECT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, May 1, 2019

I. It's All About _____

a. From _____ Perspective

- Would you consider yourself a judgmental person?
- "Us" and 'them' mentality

When the other person acts that way, he's ugly...
 When you do it, its nerves.
 When she's set in her ways she's obstinate...
 When you are, it's just firmness.
 When he doesn't like your friends, he's prejudiced...
 When you don't like his, you're showing good judgment.
 When she tries to be accommodating, she's apple-polishing...
 When you do it, you're using tact.
 When he takes time to do things, he's dead slow...
 When you take ages, you are deliberate.
 When she picks flaws, she's cranky...
 When you do it, you're discriminating.

(Anonymous, Christopher News Notes, June 1992)

- We need a change in perspective

2 Corinthians 5:16 = "From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. (NIV)

b. From _____ Perspective

- **Romans 10:13** = _____
- God wants reconciliation with everyone
- God's point of view is to be ours

II. It's All About _____

a. Cause: _____ By Jesus

- **2 Corinthians 5:15-19**

b. Effect: _____ Our Perspective

- "If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail." (Abraham Maslow)



II: A RECONCILING LOVE

CAUSE & EFFECT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14, 19

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Intro Video = "Cause & Effect Intro Video 2019" (0:29)

(War pic) War! = The Personnel Journal reported this incredible statistic: since the beginning of recorded history, the entire world has been at peace less than eight percent of the time! In its study, the periodical discovered that of 3530 years of recorded history, only 286 years saw peace. Moreover, in excess of 8000 peace treaties were made--and broken. (Moody Bible Institute, Today In The Word, June, 1988, p.33)

(Title pic) We all want peace, in our world, in our country, in our schools and homes, in our hearts. Tonight we continue this series about reconciliation by looking at the opposite of war and unrest and hate. What is the opposite? **(Students share)** = Love! Are you compelled by love?

2 Corinthians 5:14 = "Christ's love compels us..." (NIV)

I. Compelled By Love

a. Our Motivation

- i. Most of us want to live in peace
- ii. An easy life is often our motivation
- iii. I hate conflict and confrontation... do you?
- iv. Don't you just hate that feeling that something is not quite right, that unsettled sensation that comes from discord?
- v. Just want it to go away on its own, but it doesn't
- vi. What do you need to do? = Reconcile!

b. Our Compulsion

- i. What does it mean to be "compelled" to do something? Compel = "force, require, obligated"
- ii. What do you think it means to be compelled by Christ's love? Is it a bad thing? **(Students share)**

- iii. We crave the wholeness that can only come through grace and forgiveness of Jesus
- iv. We often flee from conflict... don't deal with it!
- v. But, it must be about love (it's all about love)

c. Our Relationships

- i. The love of Jesus should be what we can build all of our relationships on
- ii. The cause & effect of Christ's love is true reconciliation = "resolution, reunion, peace"
 1. Where's reconciliation come from? = Comes from His Spirit alone!
 2. What does reconciliation do? = Seeks the good of others above all else!
- iii. Ask yourself, what compels you in all of your relationships tonight? Your parents? Your status? Your friends? Your success?
- iv. What should we be compelled by? **(Students share)** = Christ's love!



(Model sailboat pic) A young boy spent many hours building a little sailboat, crafting it down to the finest detail. He then took it to a nearby river to sail it. When he put it in the water, however, it moved away from him very quickly. Though he chased it along the bank, he couldn't keep up with it. The strong wind and current carried the boat away. The heartbroken boy knew how hard he would have to work to build another sailboat.

Farther down the river, a man found the little boat, took it to town, and sold it to a shopkeeper. Later that day, as the boy was walking through town, he noticed the boat in a store window.

Entering the store, he told the owner that the boat belonged to him. It had his own little marks on it, but he couldn't prove to the shopkeeper that the boat was his. The man told him the only way he could get the boat was to buy it. The boy wanted it back so badly that he did exactly that.

As he took the boat from the hand of the shopkeeper, he looked at it and said, "Little boat, you're twice mine. I made you and I bought you."

In the same way, we are twice God's. Our Father in heaven both created us and paid a great price for us. With the blood of his Son, we have been redeemed and reunited with God. Jesus Christ gave his life to get us back, yet so often we show such little gratitude for what he has done for us. (Hot Illustrations 1.0, The Boat in the Window)

- v. Colossians 1:16 = "Everything was created through him and for him" (NLT)
- vi. Romans 5:8 = "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." (NLT)

II. Reconciled On Purpose

2 Corinthians 5:19 = "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." (NIV)

a. We Ask God "Why"

- i. God made the world for His own glory. We've seen how tragically short of His glory we've fallen; there is much on this earth that is ugly and ungodly.
- ii. Ever ask God "why"? Why does He let bad happen? Why do our loved one die? Why...?
- iii. Last week, online class = counseling students:
 1. (counseling pic) "You must befriend the reality of hurting people; you must acknowledge some wounds that are so big they may make you ask, "Why, God?" and even, "God, are you there?" One of the problems with Christians is that we feel we must constantly defend our faith so zealously, we don't know how to let God handle the huge issues. We try to minimize our situations and lives so we don't need a big God. Big pain requires a big God." (DBU online class notes, Ministry to Students, '19)
- iv. "God knew this would happen before He spoke light into darkness and crafted the heavens and the earth, and He made us anyway. Why? Because His glory can come out of the shame." (Chris Tiegreen)
 1. Now, that is mercy. He gives us...



b. He Gives Us Purpose

- i. The purpose of all creation = demonstrate this God of reconciliation and grace to everyone around us
- ii. About redemption... been redeemed/redeem others!
- iii. This love that reconciled us (v.19) is what gives us purpose. Are you living out your purpose!
 1. The bad news = We are at odds with God if our hearts don't do the same (reconcile)
 2. We didn't deserved to be forgiven of our sin, but He forgave us anyway!
- iv. If reconciliation is the purpose for which we were created, are you living out your purpose?

c. Let's Be The Effect

- i. Cause = He reconciled us (Justin asked you to stand if you are ready to live out your purpose)
- ii. Effect = We reconcile others (you stand up)

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Read: "For Christ's love compels us... God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."
(2 Corinthians 5:14 & 19, NIV)

Review: Tonight we examined our motives and how Christ's love compels us to get to know this God who loves us and created us for the purpose of reconciliation.

React: What is one practical way you can seek the good of others above all else? What does it mean to you to know you were created for the purpose of reconciliation? How can you live that out?

Leader's Notes:

II: A RECONCILING LOVE

CAUSE EFFECT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14, 19

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, April 10, 2019

2 Corinthians 5:14 = "Christ's love compels us..." (NIV)

I. Compelled By _____

a. Our _____

- Reconcile!



b. Our _____

- What do you think it means to be compelled by Christ's love?

c. Our _____

- The love of Christ should be what we build all of our relationships on!
- Reconciliation = "resolution, reunion, peace"
- What compels you in all of your relationships?
- **Colossians 1:16 / Romans 5:8**



II. Reconciled On _____

2 Corinthians 5:19 = "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." (NIV)

a. We Ask God " _____ "

- "You must befriend the reality of hurting people; you must acknowledge some wounds that are so big they may make you ask, "Why, God?" and even, "God, are you there?" One of the problems with Christians is that we feel we must constantly defend our faith so zealously, we don't know how to let God handle the huge issues. We try to minimize our situations and lives so we don't need a big God. Big pain requires a big God."(<https://www.softchalkcloud.com/lesson/serve/EsWZLpIg4eSoTH/html>)
- "God knew this would happen before He spoke light into darkness and crafted the heavens and the earth, and He made us anyway. Why? Because His glory can come out of the shame." (Chris Tiegreen)

b. He Give Us _____

- The purpose of creation: _____
- To redeem = to buy back

c. Let's Be The _____

- Are you living out your purpose?





First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Intro Video = "Cause & Effect Intro Video 2019" (0:29)

(Title pic) Welcome to our new series called **Cause & Effect**. We live "Cause & Effect" kind of lives when it comes to what Jesus has done for us and now what we should do for others. Let me begin with an activity:

What Comes To Mind? = I'm going to say a word and you shout out the first word that comes to mind... Love, Hate, School, Instagram, Beyoncé, Homework, Trump, Cats, Jesus, Cross, Reconciliation

It's tough to think of a response to "reconciliation" but our response matters.

(Graveside pic) Years ago in a Western city a husband and wife became estranged, and finally separated. They left the city and resided in different parts of the country. The husband one day chanced to return to this city on a matter of business. He went out to the cemetery to the grave of their only son. He was standing by the grave in fond reminiscence when he heard a step behind him. Turning, he saw his estranged wife. The first inclination of both was to turn away. But they had a common, binding interest in that grave; and instead of turning away they clasped hands over that grave of their son, and were reconciled one to another. It took nothing less than death to reconcile them! It takes nothing less than death, the precious blood of Christ, to reconcile man to God. (<http://www.moreillustrations.com/Illustrations/reconciliation.html>)

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 = "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself

through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 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. 20 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. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)

I. Fragmentation

a. It Began In Eden

- i. We live in a fragmented world = sin everywhere!
- ii. It started back in Eden at the beginning of creation... we are disconnected human beings from our Creator and because of sin it put enmity between man and woman...

b. It Continues In Us

- i. Everyone here is a sinner, right? (Raise hands)
- ii. Separated us from ourselves = the image of God and a heart of sin to dwell in the same body?
- iii. Disunity!
- iv. So, how could we ever be united with a perfect, sinless God when we ourselves are sinful people?
- v. We could never do it on our own!
- vi. That's where this idea comes in...

II. Redemption

a. It's In Our Blood

- i. Ever feel like you were just meant to mess up? Like you will always be a failure no matter what you do?
- ii. Like being a sinner is in your nature?
- iii. In your blood? Born into sin? Can't help it?
- iv. You're right, it is in your blood... but that's why it...

b. It Was His Blood

- i. That's why God sent Jesus (John 3:16) to shed His blood for us. Not just a drop, all of it!
- ii. If you are like many, you may not really like the sight of blood but this is the definition of redemption.
- iii. Think about what His blood means for you today...

Video = "The Blood" (OneWay Arts, 1:21)

- iv. This is the definition of "redemption"... to buy back.
- v. **Isaiah 63:9** = "In all their suffering he also suffered, and he personally rescued them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them. He lifted them up and carried them through all the years." (NLT)



- vi. For this idea of redemption, look no further than your soda bottle... there is usually a redemption label on it (pic of refund label, hold up soda can)
- vii. This is the amount of money certain states will buy this bottle back for... redemption = to buy back
- viii. God redeemed you, HE bought you back!
- ix. And so we have been reconciled to God:

III. Reconciliation

a. What Is Reconciliation?

- i. "Resolution, reunion, cease-fire"
- ii. "What was broken in the Fall can be healed at the Cross and redeemed for a purpose. That's what salvation is all about." (Chris Tiegreen)
- iii. Cease-fire? = This idea of spiritual warfare happening all around us... He won, walk in that victory, stop fighting on your own!
- iv. But we still struggle with broken relationships and face conflict, this is the stage for God's redemption

b. Why Is Reconciliation?

- i. "Because of Christ's propitiation, His satisfaction of God's righteous demands, God is now able to turn toward us. God has made us new creatures in Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. We who have been reconciled to God have the privilege of telling others that they can also be reconciled to Him" (Compact Bible Comm, 822).
- ii. This is our job description as Christ-followers!
 - 1. Both an exciting and challenging word!
 - 2. We need to see reconciliation as our primary purpose or we won't be active in bringing it about!

c. This Is The Cause & Effect!

- i. Our salvation is not just about us and God, it's also about reconnecting a fragmented creation with its Creator
- ii. Cause and effect?
 - 1. Cause = I punch your face, effect = you get mad and retaliate
 - 2. Cause = I give you a dollar, effect = you say thanks or just smile or ask why
 - 3. Cause = Jesus died for you and reconciled you to God, effect = ??
 - 4. This is our mission = reconciliation!

FBSM Small Group Leader Guide



Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Read: "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."
(2 Corinthians 5:18, NIV)

Review: Tonight we began our new 4-week series about reconciliation. We discussed the cause and effect of God reconciling us to Himself and now our mission to reconcile others to God.

React: When you hear the word "reconciliation", what's the first thing that comes to mind? Can you think of someone in your life right now who needs to be reconciled to God? How can you help them?

Leader's Notes:

I: A RECONCILING MISSION

CHURCH EFFECT

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18

First Baptist Student Ministry - Wednesday, April 3, 2019

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 = "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 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. 20 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. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (NIV)

I. F _____

a. It Began In _____

- Genesis 3:1-24

b. It _____ In Us

- Check here if you are a sinner: _____
- How can sinful people ever be united / reconnected with a perfect, sinless God?



II. R _____

a. It's In _____ Blood

b. It Was _____ Blood

Video = "The Blood" (OneWay Arts, 1:21)

- Isaiah 63:9
- To redeem = to buy back

III. R _____

a. _____ Is Reconciliation?

- "What was broken in the Fall can be healed at the Cross and redeemed for a purpose. That's what salvation is all about." (Chris Tiegreen)

b. _____ Is Reconciliation?

- This is our job description as Christ-followers!

c. This Is The _____ & _____

- Who is someone you know right now who needs to be reconciled to God?

