

September 20, 2026

(Series Info)

One Church, One Mission: Gathered for a Reason

Church can easily become something we attend, something we fit into the schedule, or something we evaluate by what we get out of it. But Jesus formed His Church to be a people united by the Gospel, growing together and carrying His mission into the world around them. The Church is God's Plan A to bring hope to the world. There is no Plan B.

In One Church / One Mission, we'll rediscover why we gather, why the one who is far from God still matters, how we grow into mature disciples, and what it means to live sent. At Mount Pleasant, that means we **Reach** not yet believers with the love of God. We **Raise** disciples who are becoming more like Jesus every day. We **Release** people to live boldly for Him right where they are.

This series is an invitation to see our place in that mission more clearly and take the next step God is calling us to take, right where we are.

(Personal Fun Facts)

What is one fun or surprising fact about you that most people in your Life Group probably don't know? (think strange job, unusual place you have been, a hidden talent, a celebrity encounter, something you collect, etc.)

(Discussion)

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 "Compelled by Love"

Being compelled also can mean being motivated. Paul tells us that Christ's love compels us. Notice he didn't say the church compels us. He didn't suggest that guilt or fear should compel us. No, he said Christ's love compels us. It is the single factor in why we would have the desire to share Jesus with others. The mission of God begins with love, not obligation. The meaning of this passage carries the sense of being controlled by something. Paul's life was so captured by the reality that Christ died for him, that he could no longer think of his life as belonging exclusively to himself. The

controlling idea that ruled his life was Christ's love. Have you been so profoundly loved by Jesus that His love is now moving outwardly through you?

- 1) Why would it be that Christians today are not as compelled as maybe Paul was? Is that an indictment on our society? Is it a matter of 2000 years of space between us and Paul? In other words, if the love of Christ compelled Paul so much, why doesn't it always seem to compel us? Or what would need to happen in us for the love of Christ to become compelling again?
- 2) What would change about your normal week if Christ's love—not convenience, schedule, or comfort—became the controlling force in your life?

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16–17 Seeing People Differently

Paul now begins to talk about how we see people. The gospel not only changes our personal relationship with God, but it changes the way we look at everyone else. We no longer are to label people and to categorize them as being successful or “down and out;” conservative or liberal; educated or uneducated; rich or poor; like me or not like me. *“From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view.”* Christ died for all of us; therefore, I can no longer reduce people to the categories I have created for them. Throughout Jesus' ministry, He saw people. While others might have seen problems, He saw people worthy of compassion.

- 3) Why is it often our first inclination to see someone's behavior rather than the story behind their behavior?

- 4) How might seeing someone differently change the way you interact with them?

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:18–20 We Are His Ambassadors

God could have chosen any other way to reach the world with the gospel, but He chose us. As His ambassadors, He is making His appeal to others *through us*. People encounter the message of Jesus through others who have encountered Jesus. Word of mouth advertising? Well, yes ... kind of. God reconciles us and then entrusts reconciliation *to us* and makes His appeal *through us*. Acts 1:8 reminds us that, as the Holy Spirit empowers us, we will be His witnesses. So, God always goes before us. His Holy Spirit is already working ... and then we are the ones ... boots on the ground ... who represent Him and His kingdom.

- 5) Why do you think God chooses to share the ultimate perfection of His gospel message through the hands and lives of imperfect people?
- 6) What does it mean to you to represent Jesus? Is that different than allowing Jesus to work through you?
- 7) Where has God already given you relationships with people who may be far from Him?

Personal Application

Who is already in your world? A neighbor. A coworker, friend, or even a family member. Who is someone in your world who seems far from God. Maybe it is someone you know going through something difficult. Write that person's name here:

Action Steps this Next Week

- Look at the name(s) you have written down above
 - Do not think of them as a spiritual project
 - Don't begin to worry about what to say to them
 - Don't even begin to strategize how you are going to get them to church
- Think about how God loves them; begin to envision them in a way that God sees them—loved
- Realize that God is already at work in their lives
 - Does this change how I feel about sharing with them
- Understand that God has placed you somewhere in their story
- Read this passage: *I am therefore Christ's ambassador, as though God were making His appeal through me.*
 - Make it personal
 - Ask this question: God, what do you want to reveal about Jesus through me to this person(s)
- Begin to pay attention to this person this week
 - Pray for them
 - Listen to them
 - Notice what God may already be doing
 - Look for a way to demonstrate the reconciling love of Jesus

You don't need a passport to be sent. You don't even need to cross the ocean to enter the mission field. It is right where you are. *You* have been reconciled. *You* have been entrusted with reconciliation. *You* are Christ's ambassador. Wherever you go this week, remember the extraordinary claim that "*God is making His appeal through ...you.*"

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus, Your Son, and making us new. Let the love of Christ compel us to see people as You see them—with grace, compassion, mercy, and hope. Remind us this week that wherever we go, we are Your ambassadors. Help us to be available to what You are already doing in the lives of

those around us. Work through our words, our actions, and our presence so that others might see Jesus in us.

We are reconciled. We are made new. We are available. We are sent. Make your appeal through us. In Jesus' name, Amen.