

Why should I care about outreach?

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

In January 2009, Pastor Mark introduced some goals for the church based on John 4:35, “*Lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest.*” The goals, referred to as the **2010 Vision**, were designed to grow United EFC through outreach.

By 2010, we will . . .

- Add 20 new families, at least 10 of whom are unchurched
- Lead at least 20 people to faith in Christ, baptizing at least 10
- Increase our missions’ giving to 20% of budget, and send at least 10 adults on short-term ministry trips

While the goals are worthy and challenging, they raise the question of WHY? Why should we care about outreach? Why should we be concerned about evangelism?

In 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2, the apostle Paul answered a similar question. In his answer, he succinctly stated the nature of our task and what should motivate us to share the gospel.

Our task: As Christ’s ambassadors, we persuade, implore, and urge others to believe the good news of the gospel.

Our motivation: Because Christ loved us enough to die for us, we want share this vital, urgent message with as many as we can.

❖ The love of Christ motivates us (5:11-15)

Since Christ loved us so much (14), we want to spare others from God’s judgment (11)

We don’t care what others think about us as long as they listen to our message (12-13)

Since Christ died for us, we should live for him (14-15)

❖ The importance of the task motivates us (5:16-21)

The good news of the gospel is that we can be transformed (16-17)

The good news of the gospel is that we can have peace with God (18-19, 21)

We have the privilege and the responsibility of sharing this good news with others (19b, 20)

❖ The urgency of the task motivates us (6:1-2)

There is no time like the present to believe the gospel

There is no time like the present to share the gospel