

Coming Back from Silence
2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Pew Bible p. 966
October 2, 2022

I. A Command to Persuade (V. 11-15)

- A. Coming back from silence means fearing God alone.
- B. Coming back from silence means receiving approval from God, rather than approval from others.
- C. Coming back from silence means being controlled by Christ's love for you, rather than being controlled by sin's hold on you.

II. A Reconciliation to Give (V. 16-21)

- A. Coming back from silence means seeing others the way God sees them, not the way you see them.
- B. Coming back from silence means being made new, not just made better.
- C. Coming back from silence means mass producing your reconciliation with God, not keeping it to yourself.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.
2. Have you ever felt a burning desire to tell someone about God and didn't? How did that make you feel?
3. What does the fear of God have to do with telling other people about Jesus, according to verse 11?
4. Have you ever looked crazy because of your relationship with Jesus? Why? Has someone else ever looked crazy to you because of their relationship with Jesus? Why? How does verse 15 explain this phenomenon?
5. Has your faith in Christ ever changed how you thought about someone? Why would that happen, according to verse 16?
6. What is the difference between claiming Jesus makes you a better person and, what verse 17 says, claiming Jesus makes you a new creation? What are some things about faith in Christ that made you a new person, not just a better one?
7. What does it look like for a person to not just be reconciled to God, but be a minister of reconciliation to others? What kinds of forms would that ministry take? What are the dangers of a Christian not bringing reconciliation into his/her context?
8. Pray for our church members, that we would be good ministers of reconciliation to a lost world. Consider attending the online church prayer meeting every Sunday at 7 pm. Register on the church website at www.apollobaptist.org.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Numbers 25-27

September Memory Verses: Numbers 24:13

Genesis 1:26-28

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

If you have not done so already, please register on the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. Register with your name and email address. This registration will last through 12/25/2022. Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- PRAYING for people who are confused about gender identity and sexual orientation, that Christ would define them.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Family of Phyllis W.; Paul W. & family (aunt), family of Joan S.; Anne W.-B. & family (husband); Sherri O. (uncle); Barbara K. (husband); and Twila D. and family (husband)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); Twila D. (serious health issues); Debbie B. (radiation treatments); Debbie P. (health issues); Ann C.-W. (health issues); Mary R. (transplant recovery); Jim M. (recovery from arm injury & surgery); John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues); Michelle LaM. (asthma/health issues); Laura M. (undiagnosed health issue); and Jenny P. (childbirth soon)
- Others that you are aware of