

# WEEK 3:

PURSUING THE MISSION WITH PASSION

# MISSION CRITICAL

We are a **church** on mission  
to raise up **WHO** disciple makers  
**WHO ARE THE GOSPEL**  
**where we**  
*live, work & play*



MITCHELL BEREAN

# MISSION CRITICAL: WEEK 3

## Open in Prayer

Open each week with prayer. This campaign is focused on the idea of living with God's heart for His mission. This is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit, and must begin in prayer.

## Watch the Video for Week 1 Together

Video is found on RightNow Media, YouTube and [mitchellberean.com/mission](http://mitchellberean.com/mission)

## Small Group Discussion

Our mission statement as a church is as follows:

We are a **church** on mission  
to raise up **WHO** disciple makers  
**SHARE THE GOSPEL**  
where we  
*live, work & play*

## Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

*(tap on the passage for a link to the scripture or scroll to the bottom)*

**Read.** In this week's sermon, we saw another aspect of our mission in Christ: to emphatically persuade those around us to follow Christ. Although we cannot make anyone serve Christ (nor do we want to try to do that), we are responsible to be His ambassadors. What a privilege! We have the opportunity to help reconcile individuals to the God Who made them and loves them unconditionally!

## We are Called to Persuade

1. We Work Hard at Persuasion (vs 11)
2. We Are Motivated by the Love of Christ (vs 14)
3. We See the Spiritual Reality of People (vs 16)
4. We Want Others to Experience the New Life We Have Found (vs 17)
5. We Are Representatives of God Helping Reconnect People to God (vs 20)



## Questions to Consider

**Read.** It was also made clear in this last week's message that our motivation and power in persuasion is love. Paul describes love in **1 Corinthians 13**. Take some time to reflect areas of your heart that may not be walking in love according to this passage. If we can be transformed by the love of Christ, we will be able to confidently step into the action points presented this past Sunday.

### 1. We Work Hard at Persuasion (vs 11)

It was not Paul's words that persuaded people, but the power of the Gospel working through love. Knowing the Truth is important, but how we present it is equally important. **1 Corinthians 13:1-2** says that if we do not have love, our words, although full of knowledge and prophecy, will just be an obnoxious noise to both God and to those whom we attempt to persuade.

- a. How can you take steps to avoid leaning on your own knowledge and instead lead with love when persuading others?

Cross Reference:

**1 Corinthians 8:1**

- b. Why do you feel at times a pressure to have the right answer to every question that may come up when trying to persuade someone? If you do not have this problem, what has brought you to that point?

Cross Reference:

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

### 2. We Are Motivated by the Love of Christ (vs 14)

Perhaps the greatest form of sacrifice for Christ in this life is martyrdom. Yet in **1 Corinthians 13:3** the Scripture says we can offer our body to be burned as a martyr, but if we do not have love we are nothing.

- a. What unhealthy motivations do you wrestle with to serve Christ? (Guilt, performance, etc)

Cross Reference:

**Romans 2:4**

- b. What are daily disciplines we can have to help us stay motivated by love and not become jaded towards others in the evil world we live in?

Cross Reference:

**Luke 9:23-24**

### 3. We See the Spiritual Reality of People (vs 16)

In **1 Corinthians 13:5** we find that love is not irritable and does not keep a record of wrong. When we see others in a spiritual sense and not just as a human we are fighting against, humility and love will come much more easily.

What tends to provoke you to irritation or "wrong keeping" in the midst of our current world and social climate?

Cross Reference:

**Ephesians 4:32**



## 4. We Want Others to Experience the New Life We Have Found (vs 17)

Without Christ-like love, we are often rude, easily irritated, and discontent with our life. Yet in the love of Christ, **1 Corinthians 13** says that we can live in a way that is patient, kind, forgiving, hopeful, resilient, and many other things. We can be a part of helping others experience this new love in Christ!

Being thankful for what God is doing and how He has changed you is powerful. Is being thankful and setting apart a time of worship a daily practice for you?

If it is, how has it been a benefit to you?

If it is not, how can you make an adjustment to prioritize this?

Cross Reference:

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

## 5. We Are Representatives of God Helping Reconnect People to God (vs 20)

Everyone was made for a relationship with God. Without this relationship, we are wayward and can never truly find life. You can be an agent of change to help someone reconnect with their God given purpose!

Do you feel as if your purpose is becoming more clear through this series? Why or why not?

Cross Reference:

**John 17:3**

### Group Fellowship & Prayer

**Discuss.** As you pray and discuss this week's sermon and questions with one another, please try to be vulnerable.

**Pray.** Spend some time exchanging prayer requests and minister to one another's needs.

**Hang out.** Getting to know one another is a vital part of obtaining God's heart to strengthen the church and reach the lost.

### Weekly Challenge

**Have a Conversation.** As we have discussed these questions I am certain there is one or more people who have been on your heart to reach out to. This week, make a conscious decision to have a conversation with that person you are thinking of. Again, this conversation should be motivated by the love of Christ, pray for that motivation! You may have an opportunity to share the Gospel with them, or maybe to simply reiterate how much you truly love them. Give God the opportunity to use you this week by stepping out in faith to have one conversation with someone with the intent to love them and point them to their God given purpose!

## Week 3 Cross References

**2 Corinthians 5:11-21** **11** Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. **12** Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart. **13** If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. **14** Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. **15** He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

**16** So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! **17** This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

**18** And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. **19** For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. **20** So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" **21** For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ

**1 Corinthians 13:1-2** If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now regarding your question about food that has been offered to idols. Yes, we know that "we all have knowledge" about this issue. But while knowledge makes us feel important, it is love that strengthens the church.

**1 Corinthians 1:18-31** The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. As the Scriptures say, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and discard the intelligence of the intelligent." So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe. It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength. Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things



*despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin. Therefore, as the Scriptures say, “If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord .”*

**1 Corinthians 13:3** *If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.*

**Romans 2:4** *Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*

**Luke 9:23-24** *Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.*

**1 Corinthians 13:5** *or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.*

**Ephesians 4:32** *Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** *Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

**John 17:3** *And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.*

