



*Closing the Gap*  
**October 25, 2020**  
*2 Corinthians 5:16-20*

### Connect:

- Somebody said this past week, “*If you want to save money on Christmas gifts, bring up politics at the extended family Thanksgiving Table this year.*” Thanksgiving gatherings may be different and smaller in 2020 but chances are we understand the polarizing nature of politics, even within our own families. It may be the reality that those you’re discussing this GPS with right now will not vote the same as you come Election Day. While there is no intent to end this gathering before it even begins, it is a fair time to ask, which statement is more true for you? “*My faith informs my politics.*” Or “*My politics inform my faith.*” Why?

### Engage

- Read *2 Corinthians 5:16-20*. There are many bumper sticker quotes in this passage from Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians. Choose one such phrase. Why does that stick out to you right now?
- Is it possible *not* to look at each other from a human point of view as Paul suggests? From what point of view are we supposed to see each other? Do we?
- Rev. Jason Veach says, “*The way Christians handle conflict and disagreement will reveal to the world whether or not we believe the Gospel to be true.*” Do you agree? Why or why not?
- We are often only known for what we are “*against,*” not what we are “*for.*” Is this mostly true in your view of others? What might happen if we focused on the “*for*” more than the “*against*”?
- Blockbuster Video started renting VHS tapes 35 years ago this week. In 2004, there were more than 4,000 stores worldwide. Today? There is one remaining store. It’s in Bend, Oregon. An entire industry thrived and crashed in 35 years. What might their experience, and this time of COVID, call upon the Church to consider how we operate in today’s society? Discuss.
- Paul shares that Jesus “*entrusted the message of reconciliation to us.*” What is such a ministry? Is that same ministry entrusted to us? Why or why not?

### Next Steps:

- In *The Muppet Christmas Carol*, a take on the famed Dicken’s story, the narrator says, “*The thing that made Scrooge happiest of all was that his life lay before him and it could be changed.*” Looking at your life the next few days, weeks, even to the end of 2020... what can you be more intentional about when it comes to kindness, reconciliation, or lifting up the need of another? Share your intentions with your group and see if you can be that change you wish to see.

### Pray:

- “*We have been entrusted, O God, with the same ministry of reconciliation that the first disciples carried. Help us see each other, and even strangers, as new creations, open and ripe to teach us something and be your gift in the world. May it be so. Amen.*”