



- 1. Why do we gather?*
- 2. Why do we give?*
- 3. Why do we reconcile?*
- 4. Why do we remember the past?*
- 5. Why do we serve?*
- 6. Why do we give thanks?*
- 7. Why do we make commitment?*

Leaving Vital Faith...

Sermon Series



For abundant life make an every effort to gather.



*Among U.S. adults who attend religious services at least once or twice a month,
% who say _____ is a "very important" reason they ATTEND religious services*



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 1. Why Do We Gather?*



WHEN YOU LEARN,
TEACH.
WHEN YOU GET,
GIVE.

~MAYA ANGELOU

WE MAKE A
LIVING BY
WHAT WE GET,
BUT WE MAKE A
LIFE BY
WHAT WE GIVE.

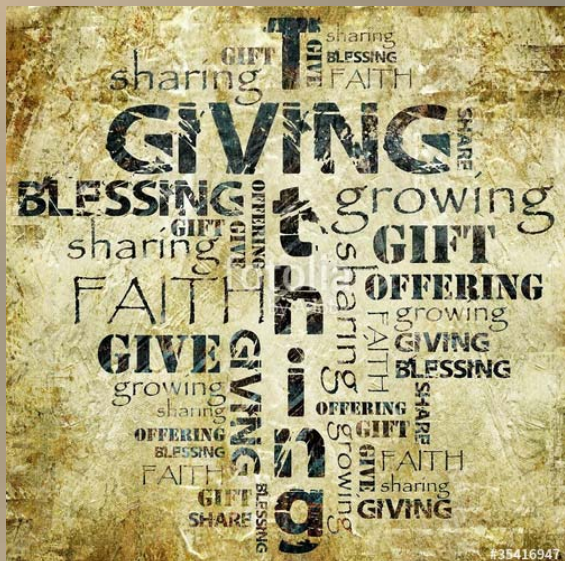
~WINSTON CHURCHILL

No-one has
ever become
poor by giving.

~Anne Frank

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Give?*

PLEDGE ON SUN. NOV. 4



“For it is
in
giving
that
we
receive.”

- St. Francis of Assisi

Means of Grace to Shape our Future

2019

Toward "the year of multiplication"



LIVING A
STEWARDSHIP


It is all about your heart...
Everything we have is a gift from God
that we are to use to help others.

Life

Teach what to Give as well as how to Give



2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2
Apostolic Ministry of Early Church



For Christ's love compels us,
because we are convinced that
one died for all, and therefore all
died. And he died for all, that
those who live should no longer
live for themselves but for him
who died for them and was raised
again.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Leave Vital Faith & Practices



2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 *The Ministry of Reconciliation*

All this is from God, who
reconciled us to himself through
Christ and gave us the
ministry of reconciliation:

~ II Corinthians 5:18 NIV



Leave Vital Faith & Practices

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a single pink daisy flower. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gently gripping the stem. The flower is in full bloom, with numerous delicate petals radiating from a dark center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of warm tones, likely from a window or a light source, creating a gentle and hopeful atmosphere.

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2
New Life with Jesus Christ

Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ, he is a
new creation;
old things have
passed away; behold,
all things have
become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Leave Vital Faith & Practices

1. God made Jesus who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.

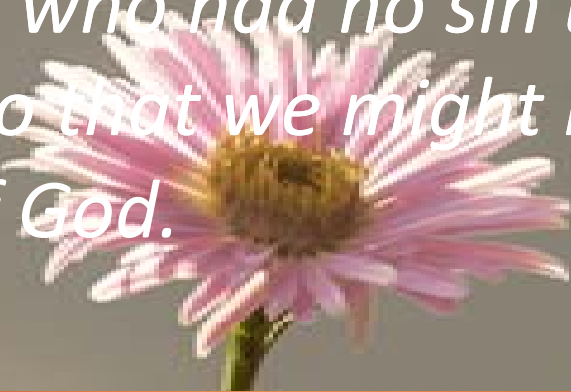
Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 3. Why Do We Reconcile?

1. God made Jesus who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.



Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 3. Why Do We Reconcile?

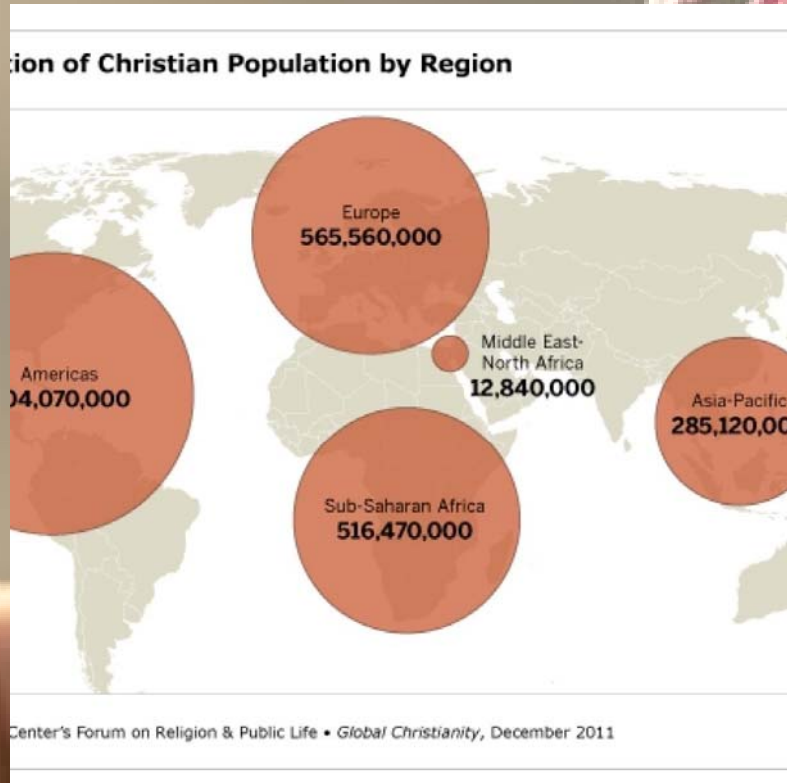
1. God made Jesus who had no sin to be a sin offering for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God.



*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away
the sin of the world! (John 1:29)*

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 3. Why Do We Reconcile?*

2. Christ's love compels us to live as His ambassadors.



There are 37 million churches in the world with 34,000 Christian denominations.

The U.S. currently has **294** physical embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions across the world, with 27 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which is more than any other nation.

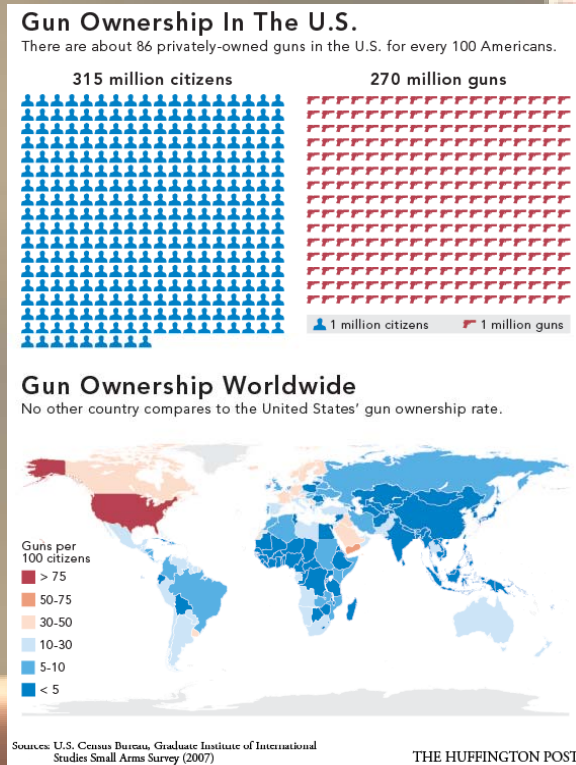
Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?

2. *Christ's love compels us to live as His ambassadors.*



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?*

2. Christ's love compels us to live as His ambassadors.



Rob Tindale, Contributor
Contributor

There Are Roughly 6 Licensed Gun Dealers for Every Starbucks in the U.S.

In a data visualization called "firearms and frappuccinos," the comparison between America's favorite coffee shop and licensed gun dealers is made painstakingly clear.

03/27/2016 01:14 pm ET | Updated Mar 22, 2017



CHANTILLY, VA - OCTOBER 3: People look at handguns as thousands of customers and hundreds of dealers sell, show, and buy guns and other items during The Nation's Gun Show at the Dulles Expo Center which is the first major gun show in the area since the Oregon shooting in Chantilly, VA on Saturday, October 03, 2015. (Photo by John Bozard/The Washington Post via Getty Images)

“There are 64,747 licensed gun dealers in USA as of December 2015.”

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?*

2. Christ's love compels us to live as His ambassadors.

The U.S. currently has 294 physical embassies, consulates, and diplomatic missions across the world, with 27 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, which is more than any other nation.



The primary responsibility of an ambassador is to act as a representative of their country of origin. They attend social functions, political parties and banquets with the intention of smoothing relationships between nations. ... Additionally, **ambassadors** meet with important political leaders and greet or host other diplomats.

From "General Duties of an Ambassador" work.chron.com

Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?

2. Christ's love compels us to live as His ambassadors.

For we are his
WORKMANSHIP
 created in
CHRIST JESUS
 for EPH 2:10
Good works
 which
GOD PREPARED
 before that we would
WALK in
 them
EPHESIANS 2:10

UNITED METHODIST LAY MEMBERSHIP

EUB	METHODIST	TOTAL	% CHANGE
-	57,858	57,858	-
-	65,181	65,181	12.7
528	174,560	175,088	168.6
10,992	257,736	268,728	53.5
23,245	478,053	501,298	86.5
38,992	855,761	894,753	78.5
61,175	1,185,902	1,247,077	39.4
141,841	1,661,086	1,802,927	44.6
190,034	1,821,908	2,011,942	11.6
270,032	2,693,691	2,963,723	47.3
346,751	3,441,675	3,788,426	27.8
423,699	4,226,327	4,650,026	22.7
498,551	5,073,200	5,571,751	19.8
608,519	6,140,318	6,748,837	21.1
667,294	7,319,125	7,986,419	18.3
663,817	7,682,187	8,346,004	4.5
801,105	8,935,647	9,736,752	16.7
763,380	9,884,484	10,647,864	9.4
-	-	10,671,774	0.2
-	-	9,519,407	-10.8
-	-	8,853,455	-7.0
-	-	8,411,503	-4.9
-	-	7,079,000	-9.3


UNITED STATES POPULATION

YEAR	NUMBER	% CHANGE	% UMC
1790	3,929,214	-	1.5
1800	5,308,483	35.1	1.2
1810	7,239,881	36.4	2.4
1820	9,638,453	33.1	2.8
1830	12,860,702	33.4	3.9
1840	17,063,353	32.6	5.2
1850	23,191,876	35.9	5.4
1860	31,443,321	35.6	5.7
1870	38,558,371	22.6	5.2
1880	50,155,783	30.1	5.9
1890	62,947,714	25.5	6.0
1900	75,994,575	20.7	6.1
1910	91,972,266	21.0	6.0
1920	105,710,620	14.9	6.4
1930	122,775,046	16.1	6.5
1940	131,669,275	7.2	6.3
1950	150,697,361	14.4	6.5
1960	179,323,175	18.5	5.9
1970	203,211,926	13.3	5.3
1980	226,545,805	11.4	4.2
1990	248,709,873	9.7	3.6
2000	281,421,906	8.7	3.0
2010	300,745,000	9.7	2.3

Are you? Do you play the roles of His Ambassadors?

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
 Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?*

3. God is reconciling the world to himself in Christ.

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a single pink daisy flower. The flower has many thin, light pink petals and a yellow center. The stem is green and thin. Another hand is visible on the right side of the frame, with fingers slightly curled as if reaching towards the flower. The background is a soft, out-of-focus greyish-blue. The lighting is warm, suggesting a window or indoor light source.

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?*

3. God is reconciling the world to himself in Christ.



INDIVIDUALLY
WE ARE A
DROP BUT
TOGETHER,
WE ARE AN
OCEAN.
RYUNOSUKE SATORO
BOSSIPON.COM

GLOBAL ISSUES

New Global Citizens' programs are organized around one or more of the following global issues. NGC Global Issues are based on NGC student input, the UN Millennium Development Goals and the belief that EVERY YOUNG PERSON can play a role in solving them!



EXTREME POVERTY & HUNGER

Extreme Poverty & Hunger: 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, earning \$1.25 or less per day.



UNIVERSAL EDUCATION

Roughly 57 million children do not attend primary school (from about five to eleven years old) and over half of them are girls.



GENDER EQUALITY

Women perform 68% of the world's work and produce half of the food, but only own 1% of the farmland.



CHILD MORTALITY

More than 3 million children who die each year could be saved with inexpensive medicine.



MATERNAL HEALTH

Every year around 300,000 women die in pregnancy or childbirth. 99% of the deaths occur in the developing world.



EPIDEMICS

In 2012, malaria caused around 600,000 deaths and an additional 200 million new clinical cases, the majority of which occur in the world's poorest countries.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

1 child dies from water-related disease every 21 seconds.



ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Youth comprise 17% of the global population, but 40% of the unemployed.



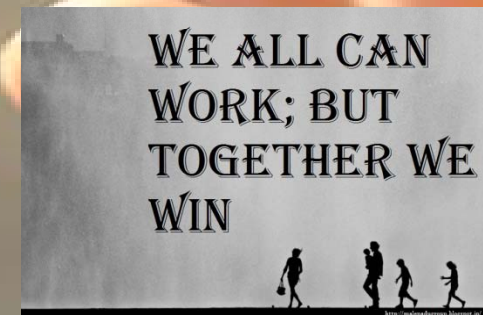
ARMED CONFLICT

Around the globe, an estimated 11.2 million to 13.7 million children have been internally displaced as a result of armed conflict.



NATURAL DISASTERS

Since 1990, natural disasters have affected about 217 million people every year.



*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?*

3. God is reconciling the world to himself in Christ.

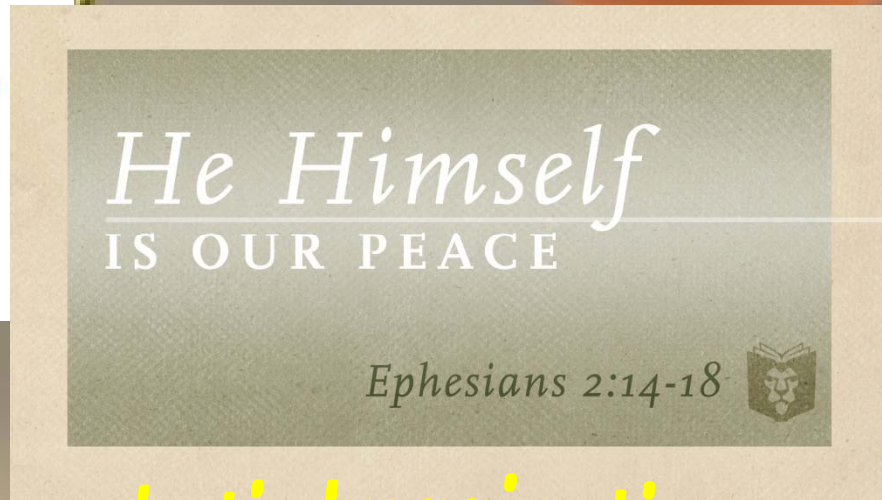


A World without Mutual Respect

Aesop's Fables: The Stork and the Fox

Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?

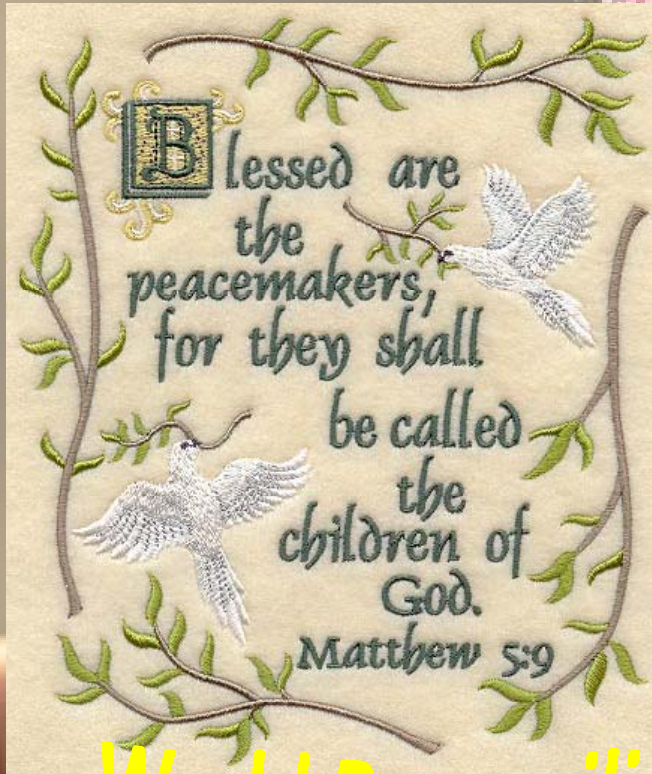
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Vital faith from Prophetic Imagination

Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?

3. God is reconciling the world to himself in Christ.



World Reconciling by the Children of God

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 2. Why Do We Reconcile?*

4. Do not receive God's grace in vain.

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 3. Why Do We Reconcile?*

4. Do not receive God's grace in vain.



Protest "Wrong Traditions" since 1517

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 3. Why Do We Reconcile?*

4. Do not receive God's grace in vain.



THE 5 SOLAS OF THE REFORMATION

SOLA GRATIA
Grace Alone

SOLA FIDE
Faith Alone

SOLUS CHRISTUS
Christ Alone

SOLI DEO GLORIA
Glory of God Alone

SOLA SCRIPTURA
Scripture Alone

Leaving Vital Faith & Practices

*Leaving Vital Faith and Practices
Part 3. Why Do We Reconcile?*