House On The Rock Life Group Study outline 2021

October: Minding the gap

Week 2 - Reconciliation - sharing our faith

Introduction

We probably all know a lot about faith, what it means, how to use it and how to summon it. Some of us even know the different contexts, nuances, original languages and translations within which the word "faith" is used in the bible. Some may even know the history of faith, and how it has evolved over time. That is all well and good. But that is not all there is to our faith. A lot of these elements are not fundamental to walking in faith – do we really need to know the original Hebrew term in order to operate in faith? Probably not. But there is a foundational aspect of our faith that we want to focus on in this series, and this is about *communicating* it. Our faith is not fulfilling its purpose until it is multiplied, not just within ourselves, but also in others. This is why we have been given a ministry of reconciliation. Today, we want to understand what the barriers are to sharing our faith, and how we can overcome them.

Pilot text

<u>2 Cor 5:17-19</u> 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

<u>Phil 1:4-6</u> 4 I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, 5 hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

- [Feedback on our goals from week 1 round table]
 - O How are we making progress? What additional support do we need in order to stay on track?
- Faith-sharing health check
- What are those things that prevent us from sharing our faith, and how do we overcome them?
- What clues can we see from the second pilot scripture, Phil 1:4-6, that can help us share our faith?
- Take home actions
 - Take some time over the next week to consider where there are opportunities to share your faith. What will you do, knowing what you now do?