

Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Be Reconciled to God

- ✓ To Reconcile: “to change, exchange (especially of money); hence, of persons, ‘to change from enmity to friendship’”
- ✓ The Need of
- ✓ The Author of
- ✓ The Means of
- ✓ The Word of

Men Need to be Reconciled!

- Enmity, Hostility Toward God
- One-way
- Source of Enmity: Sin
- Romans 5:6-11
 - Sinner = Enemy
 - 1 John 3:4
 - Romans 3:23
 - Isaiah 59:1-2

Every man needs to be reconciled to God because of sin!

God is the Author of Reconciliation

- Reconciling man with God is God's initiative
- Verses 18, 19
- God's great love, mercy and grace
 - Titus 3:3-7
- God's great desire for reconciliation, relationship, fellowship
 - 1 Timothy 2:3-6

Jesus Christ is God's Means of Reconciliation

- John 3:16
- Verse 21
 - Cannot mean He became sinful
 - Cannot mean He was a sinner
 - Cannot mean He was guilty of sin
 - Hebrews 4:15
 - 1 Peter 2:22
 - See Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 10
 - “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”
 - “for the transgressions of My people He was stricken”
 - “yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand”

Jesus Christ is God's Means of Reconciliation

- Wages of sin is death
 - Romans 6:23
- OT sacrifices:
 - Hebrews 10:4
 - Hebrews 7:26-27
- Need a sinless sacrifice offered by a sinless priest
 - Revelation 13:8
 - John 1:29
 - 1 John 3:15
 - Hebrews 7:24
 - Hebrews 1:3
 - Hebrews 2:9
- God is just, and at the same time the justifier
 - Romans 3:24-26

The Gospel is the Word of Reconciliation

- Verses 18-19
- Divine chain of authority – verses 18-20
 - God
 - Jesus Christ
 - Ambassadors (Apostles)
 - The Word
 -for You
- The word of reconciliation includes
 - What we have done against God
 - What God has done for us
 - Conditions of reconciliation
 - “What must I do?”
- The Gospel of Peace
 - Romans 5:1; 10:13-17

The Gospel is the Word of Reconciliation

- Two sides – what God does and what man must do
- Man has to change!
 - Respond in faith and obedience
 - Involves Repentance!
 - Acts 2:36-38
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1:9-10
 - Acts 10
 - Acts 17:30
- God forgives
 - Verse 21
 - Colossians 1:19-23
 - Colossians 2:11-13

God reconciles us to Himself when we respond in obedience to the gospel of Christ and are baptized

Be Reconciled Unto God

- Why don't more people get reconciled?
 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-4
- If you've been reconciled to God, then live for Him who died for you
 - 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - 2 Peter 1:8-9
- Preach the word of reconciliation
 - Including God's conditions
 - There are a lot of unreconciled religious people

Be Reconciled Unto God

- The reconciled must not continue in the way which created the enmity
 - Colossians 1:21-23
 - Romans 8:7
 - James 4:4
 - How can we return to that which created enmity?
 - “But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: ‘A dog returns to his own vomit,’ and ‘a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire’” (2 Peter 2:22)
 - Worldliness is repugnant!
- Reconciliation is urgent
 - “We implore on Christ’s behalf”
 - 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

