

THE PROMINENT ASPECTS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS

Part 4: RECONCILIATION TO GOD

A. What is Reconciliation?

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WHAT IS RECONCILIATION: Restoration or recovery: To reconcile, in its earlier use in Greek, meant to adjust the difference. Biblically speaking, it is the state of having been restored, brought back into friendship and favor of God after estrangement from him through sin. It's likened to a scale that is heavy with sin against us on one side; God removed the sin through blood sacrifice and the scale was balanced. The difference (problem) between God and man was the huge chasm of sin. God desired that man would be unified with Him. So, he adjusted the difference of sin by the cross, which restored our state of favor and union with him. He was appeased of Mankind's sin through Adam, and all our wrongs (past, present and future): all by the sacrifice of his Son in our behalf (Isa. 53:11 & Gal. 1:4). By Jesus Christ's sacrifice we were restored, reconciled to God.

A. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

RECONCILIATION, *noun* [Latin reconciliatio.]

1. The act of reconciling parties at variance; renewal of friendship after disagreement or enmity.

Reconciliation and friendship with God, really form the basis of all rational and true enjoyment.

2. In Scripture, the means by which sinners are reconciled and brought into a state of favor with God, after natural estrangement or enmity; the atonement; expiation.

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression and to make an end of sin, and to make *reconciliation* for iniquity. **Daniel 9:24. Hebrews 2:17.**

3. Agreement of things seemingly opposite, different or inconsistent.

RECONCILE, *verb transitive* [Latin reconcilio; re and concilio; con and calo, to call, Gr. The literal sense is to call back into union.]

1. To conciliate anew; to call back into union and friendship the affections which have been alienated; to restore to friendship or favor after estrangement; as, to *reconcile* men or parties that have been at variance.

"Go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother" - **Matthew 5:24.**

"We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:18. Ephesians 2:16. Colossians 1:20.

2. To bring to acquiescence, content or quiet submission; with to; as, to *reconcile* one's self to afflictions. It is our duty to be reconciled to the dispensations of Providence.

3. To make consistent or congruous; to bring to agreement or suitableness; followed by *"with"* or *"to"*.

The great men among the ancients understood how to *reconcile* manual labor with affairs of state.

4. To adjust; to settle; as, to *reconcile* differences or quarrels.

B. Reconciliation-change on the part of one party only, induced by some action on the part of another; the reconciliation of men by the love of God in the gift of his Son. (E.W. Bullinger)

C. God's design of marriage is that a man and a woman "*become one flesh.*" The two are designed to be one. Insight regarding reconciliation is gained from 1Co 7:10b-11a "...*that the wife should not leave her husband. But and if she departs, let her remain unmarried (separated), or be reconciled to her husband.*"

Scripturally repeated points about our reconciliation to God (repetition is used for emphasis):

1. We have been reconciled "*to God.*"
2. We have been reconciled by the death/the cross/the blood of Jesus Christ.
3. The word "*now*" is used regarding "*being reconciled,*" which is contrasted with before we were reconciled.

"So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled (repair the differences, be unified, restored) to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt 5:23-24 ESV)

Old Covenant records regarding reconciliation to God: Lev. 6:30, 8:15, 16:18-20, 2Chron. 29:23-24, Ez. 45:15-20 (3x) and Dan. 9:24.

These records repeatedly address two main points about reconciliation.

1. Reconciliation with God is necessary due to sins.
2. Reconciliation is ONLY accomplished through shed blood.

New Testament records of reconciliation to God:

*"6 ¶ For **while** we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. 8 But God commends his own (kind of) love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him. 10 For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life; 11 and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **now** received the reconciliation. 12 Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned (in Adam)"* (Ro 5:6-12)

1. By the death of Jesus Christ, we were reconciled "*to God.*" God wasn't reconciled to us! Eternal life ISN'T about God joining us in our beat-up fishing boat (so to speak), but about us joining God in his yacht. In other words, instead of us bringing God down to our life, to resolve our problems, he has brought us up to his life (eternal) where our problems are resolved! The crucifixion of Jesus Christ is God's solution to Man's problems because it made us one with God where no problems exist!
2. Reconciliation to God cannot be understood in any depth unless our separation from God through Adam's disobedience is accepted (Rom. 5:12). Then, accepting that through Adam's disobedience we were all made sinners (Rom. 3:23) further deepens our understanding of reconciliation. The greater our understanding of the immensity of the problem (sin and being made sinners), the greater our understanding of the immensity of the solution (the abundance of the grace and gift of righteousness toward

us through Christ). Sin and sins separated Man from God. Jesus Christ's death reconciled us back to God.

3. Verse 12 tells us how we were separated from God so as to need reconciliation.

“14 For he (Christ) is our peace, who made both (Jew and Gentile) one, and broke down the middle wall of partition (between Jew and Gentile), 15 having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; that he might create in himself of the two (Jew and Gentile) one new man, so making peace; 16 and might reconcile them both in one body unto God through the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:” (Eph 2:14-16)

1. Under the Old Covenant, Israel was commanded by God not to mix with the other nations (the Gentiles). But through the Cross of Christ God designed harmony between the two.
2. Note here that reconciliation is two becoming one.

“Wherefore it behooved him in all things to be made like unto his brethren, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” (Heb 2:17 ASV)

“20 and through him (Christ) to reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens. 21 And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in your mind in evil works, 22 yet now has he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish (faultless, flawless) and unproveable (unaccusable) before him (in his presence)” (Col 1:20-22)

1:21 alienated: to *estrangle away*, that is, (passively and figuratively) to *be non participant*: - alienate, be alien. (Strong's)

Webster's 1828 Dict. of alienate:

2. To estrange; to withdraw, as the affections; to make indifferent or averse, where love or friendship before subsisted; with from; as, to *alienate* the heart or affections; to *alienate* a man from the friends of his youth.

3. To apply to a wrong use. "*They shall not alienate the first fruits of the land.*" Ezekiel 48:14.

1:21 enemies: *hateful* (passively *odious*, or actively *hostile*); usually as a noun, an *adversary* (especially *Satan*): - enemy, foe. (Strong's)

Webster's 1828 Dict. of ad'versary, Opposed; opposite to; adverse. In law, having an opposing party.

Our reconciliation to God was by the death of Jesus Christ. Through the cross, all differences were repaired between Man and God, so as to produce friendship, harmony, unity between God and man. That which had been lost through Adam's act of disobedience in the garden of Eden was restored through Christ. Now, God's favoring eye watches over us, guiding us into pure partnership with him.

Embracing the truth that we have been reconciled to God through Christ strengthens our oneness with him.