

THE PROMINENT ASPECTS OF THE GLAD TIDINGS

Part 4: RECONCILIATION TO GOD: RESTORATION

B. The Ministry of Reconciliation, 2Co 5:14-6:1

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TGOCM

REVIEW from Part A: What is Reconciliation?

1. Reconciliation is:
 - a. Restoration or recovery
 - b. to adjust the difference, as in currency from one country to another: the analogy of a scale that is heavy with sin against us on one side; God removed the sin through blood sacrifice and the scale was balanced.
 - c. Being brought back into friendship and favor of God after estrangement from him through sin
 - d. Being restored into oneness with God, our Father
 - e. Agreement/harmony of things seemingly opposite, different or inconsistent
 - f. Change on the part of one party only, induced by some action on the part of another; the reconciliation of men to God by his love in the gift of his Son. (E.W. Bullinger)
2. Scripture *never* directs us to reconcile ourselves to God, either initially to get born again, nor at any time in our walk with him. Jesus Christ did this work in our behalf. Accept it!
3. We have been reconciled *“to God,”* not God to us.

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION:

“14 For the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and he died for all, that they that live might no longer live unto themselves, but unto him who for their sakes died and rose again.” 16 Wherefore we henceforth know no man according to the flesh: even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know him so no more. 17 Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old things are passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the service of reconciliation; 19 how that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having put in us the word of reconciliation. 20 Therefore we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as it were, God entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For, him who knew not sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him. 6:1 And working together with him we entreat you also to not receive the grace of God in emptiness (void of its purpose).” (2Co 5:14-6:1)

1. The *“ministry of reconciliation”* (v. 18-19) is ONLY by way of *“the word of reconciliation.”*
 - a. What the *“ministry of reconciliation”* is NOT:
 - i. Bringing people to Church or Fellowship.
 - ii. Requiring people to submit to your Church’s rules or lingo.
 - iii. *“reckoning their trespasses unto them.”*
 1. An example of this is the woman caught in adultery, (Jn. 8:3-11). He forgave her!
 2. Instead, point them to verses like 2Co. 5:21.
 - b. What the *“ministry of reconciliation”* IS:
 - i. Serving people (the Saints and Ain’ts) that specific Word of reconciliation, hence, the *“new things that have come,”* the realities of being a *“new creation.”*
2. When reconciliation with God is attempted by any other means than blood (New Covenant is the blood of the Cross of Christ), the success is equivalent to Cain’s in Gen. 4.

- a. What are some ways people, or saints, try to repair or maintain their relationship with God? All of these are stating that *“Christ died needlessly”* (Gal. 2:21).
3. The title, *“the ministry,”* has erroneously been used by some to refer to their group or church.
4. Verse 20 is an appeal through the Apostle Paul to those who have been positionally reconciled to God (like the Corinthian Saints) to be practically reconciled to God. This is the continual work of the truth and the spirit of God operating in the Saints: our father is purging us of all differences with being a *“new creation”* so that we are coming into pure agreement with our redemptive realities.
5. Verse 21 begins with a conjunction showing a reason for what was previously stated. Essentially, he is saying, *Be reconciled to God! Adjust your thinking to accept that one died for all, therefore, all died in him, including yourselves! This will produce an increasing lifestyle of living, not for yourselves, but for Christ who died and rose again for this purpose. Why be reconciled to God? Because the one who did not experientially know sin became an offering for sin for your sake and for this purpose, so that through him we all would be made the righteousness of God!* This is why the next verse reads...
 - a. *“And working together with him we entreat you also to not receive the grace of God in emptiness (void of its purpose).”*

Through pondering and seeking our Father to understand what it means that *“we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,”* (Rom. 5:10a) we will continue to mature into oneness with the Father as he intended. This is true regarding pondering any of our redemptive realities: *“...for it (the gospel) is the power of God unto salvation (deliverance unto wholeness) to everyone who believes” (Ro 1:16a)*

What will we mature into? God is replicating himself (his qualities and characteristics) in saints as our minds learn of and adapt to our redemptive realities. Consider this humbling privilege! God’s qualities and characteristics include confidence and boldness, no fear, anxiety or doublemindedness. He is always steadfast and patient. He never loses sight of true reality. He is compassionate, merciful, gracious and forgiving. And, probably above all, he is pure love. He desires that we learn to enjoy all of these spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). This is why he gave them to us. And this is why he gave us his Word, so that we could be educated and conditioned to being in his image (2Cor. 3:18 & 4:4). These truths, such as reconciliation, are THAT powerful in their transforming ability!

Don’t be deceived by the affairs of this deceptive and infectiously evil age! Learn of and grow in who you now are through Christ and watch the cares and pressures of this world lose their powers against you... *be reconciled to God!*