

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-21

RECONCILIATION

GOSPEL DEFINED



Something is wrong in man's relationship to God. We may ignore it or try to fix it in many different ways, but ultimately our rebellion and idolatry has shattered our relationship with our Creator. We are God's enemy...and the Bible even says that God is ours. Something needs to be done! Well, the gospel says something has been done! Reconciliation is the good news that in Christ God brings man back into fellowship with Himself. The broken relationship is repaired as Jesus makes peace between us and God with His blood.

RECONCILIATION IS NEEDED.

God made man to enjoy and live in perfect friendship with Him.

Man chose to rebel and run from perfect friendship with God.

Man is in rebellion to God. God is at enmity with man.

RECONCILIATION IS MADE.

A perfect mediator stands between God and man.

God, in His son Jesus, acts as the mediator between us and His wrath.

A perfect sacrifice makes peace with God.

God, in His son Jesus, stands in place of us, accepting our punishment.

God, in His son Jesus, reconciles the world to Himself.

RECONCILIATION IS RECEIVED.

Reconciliation is not possessed until it is received by faith.

Reconciliation is receiving the reconciler and the reconciliation.

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT...

How does full reconciliation after a conflict differ from "surface peace"?

Jerry Bridges says of reconciliation, "Even though He is the One offended by our sin, He is the One who makes amends to Himself through the death of Christ"? How do you respond to that? Read and meditate on Romans 5:10.

We see then that we were God's enemies because of our sin. What had to be done to change this and who initiated it (Romans 5:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19)?

God has an enmity toward sin and sinners. Why do we have problems with God's holy hatred toward sinful people? What is God's posture toward those who do wrong? (Psalm 5:5)

After making restitution for us, God implores us to be reconciled to Him, even though He is the offended party. And, because we are so weak, He sends us His Spirit to help us even understand (and then receive) this good news according to God's choice? What amazing riches we really do have in Christ! Why are we powerless in our reconciliation toward God? What are some of the reasons that Christ had to become our mediator? What are a few reasons for that continued rebellion against God?

Now look at Acts 16:14-16. Notice that the Lord opened Lydia's heart so that she could respond to Paul's message. When did the Lord open your heart and how did that change you?

Can our reconciliation with God ever be undone? Why or why not? What is our status of eternal friendship with God based upon?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. What are the results of our being reconciled to God?