

Fundamental Truths - Reconciliation

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Background - enmity & alienation & distance

Reconciliation involves a great change in man's state & condition:

- from hostility, alienation, enmity, bitterness & distance
- to unity, fellowship, friendship, acceptance, peace & intimacy

It is man that has alienated himself & requires reconciliation to God.

But only God can reconcile man, reconciliation is a divine work.

The only ***ground of reconciliation*** is the death of Christ at Calvary.

The Means of Reconciliation - by Christ's death (Romans 5v10-11)

The commendation of God's love toward us (v8); ungodly sinners are justified (v9) and alienated enemies are reconciled (v10).

v10: By Christ's death, the enmity and hostile attitude and everything about me that was offensive to God has been removed.

The believer knows the ***blessing of reconciliation***, present salvation of life, due to the risen & exalted Man who lives at God's right hand.

The One who was prepared to die for me, when I was an enemy, to procure my reconciliation, how "much more" will He now save my life presently as He lives in heaven for me (John 14v19).

My life on earth is dependent on His resurrection life & ministry in heaven, as my Great High Priest (Heb 2/4/7), my Advocate (1st John 2) and our exalted & glorified Head (Eph/Col).

v11: The ***joy of reconciliation***, we can now exult in our God.

We are ***recipients of reconciliation***, effected by Christ's atoning death.

The Ministry of Reconciliation - given to us (2nd Cor 5v17-21)

v17: The great change that takes place in a believer's life - positional truth.

v18: God is the ***source of reconciliation***, He will reconcile to Himself the repentant sinner who trusts His Son for salvation.

We are made stewards of the ***message of reconciliation*** - the gospel.

v19: The ***word of reconciliation*** - Christ and His cross.

The ***scope of reconciliation***, a world-wide provision for all of humanity.

Trespasses will not be imputed to those who are reconciled in Christ, for God is eternally satisfied by the sacrifice & death of His Son

v20: The ***preaching of reconciliation***; as Christ's ambassadors we represent the King of kings, we are to convey to men the heartfelt pleas of a gracious & merciful Saviour, we supplicate & beseech sinful men to be reconciled to God.

v21: The ***requirement for reconciliation***, sin must be dealt with.

God's holiness demanded a sinless sacrifice for sin, the sinless Son of God.

Upon the cross, after men had done their worst, God dealt with His Son as He must deal with sin, the hours of darkness, the sin question has been settled.

The Movements of Reconciliation – for Jew & Gentile (Eph 2v11-18)

There is a dispensational reconciliation between the believing Jew and Gentile, which involves fundamental change in positions & relationships.

A: Jew & Gentile have been reconciled to one another.

The Gentiles were kept outside of the privileges of the Jew (v12), but based upon the blood of Christ (v13), that separating middle wall of partition has been broken down (v14), the enmity has been abolished (v15) & slain (v16), and there is a **dispensational peace** between Jew & Gentile (see v14,15&17).

In the eternal purpose of God, there is now a new thing entirely that Christ has effected, Jew & Gentile on equal ground and harmoniously reconciled, God's masterpiece in new creation, the Church, "one new man" (v15).

B: Jew & Gentile both together reconciled to God

The cross is the end of all enmity in the heart of man towards God, that enmity has been slain (v16).

For reconciled members of the Church, there is not only nearness to God, but an unprecedented, immediate, constant & unbreakable access to the Father (v18).

The Motive of Reconciliation - all things reconciled (Col 1v20-22)

v20: The provision of reconciliation is the cross of Christ and His shed blood.

God's divine purpose relevant to the future, a future reconciliation yet to be fulfilled. This will restore creation to its original beauty, make "all things" compatible with & acceptable to divine Persons, and bring about a **universal peace** with all things in the heavens & on earth in harmony.

We must appreciate the largeness of the work of Christ at Calvary; what it will effect, not just for me, but for God.

This peace will be fulfilled and manifested in the coming Millennial Kingdom of Christ, when all will be subject to Him.

No mention of "things under the earth", similar to Eph 1v10, but in contrast to Phil 2v10. Things under the earth will be subdued and bow the knee, but unrepentant sinners in hell will never be reconciled to God.

v21: The background to reconciliation, the change wrought in the individual believer from a position of estrangement & alienation & enmity.

In God's mercy & grace, by His act of reconciliation, the believer in Christ knows & enjoys "now", presently, the great truth of reconciliation.

v22: The application of reconciliation, the value & merit of Christ's death is applied to me by my identification with His death.

The underlying aim of reconciliation, a perfect work Christ has wrought for us.

When God now looks upon those who are reconciled, He does not see our wicked works. But He sees us as "holy", i.e. pure and clean in His sight, no evil upon me. God sees us as He sees His own Son, "unblameable" in His sight, with no blame attached to us, with no evil within me. He sees us as "unreprovable", nothing will ever be laid to our charge, no evil between me & God.