

Be Reconciled to God

II Corinthians 5:18-21

2/10/02

Intro

- Africa Missions Dinner this Friday
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Last week, we looked at several verses that gave us insight into how we can be truly changed (Walk by faith and not by site, let the love of Christ control us, and be in Christ.)

We also heard about one of the greatest truths of our faith, that in Christ, all things become new, the old things passed away.

In these verses, Paul says that all these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself in Christ. To be reconciled to God is what brings the rest, it starts there.

These verses give us insight into our reconciliation with God.

Illus- What is reconciliation? It's not just two people finding each other after one was lost, but it is in making things right between two people that were separated.

Illus- In marriage, we reconcile when each person is finally able to take responsibility for his/her part in the breakdown of the relationship. But in God, He takes responsibility for our part.

THIS IS PAUL'S INSIGHT INTO RECONCILIATION – A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

I. How does God reconcile is to Himself?

A. By judging our sin in Christ.

- There is a judgment for Christians, but it is for the rewards of righteousness, our sin is already judged in Christ.
- “Not counting our sins against us.” This is because He already counted it against Christ.
- “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Illus- This takes away the possibility of paying for our sins ourselves. Can we pay for a double chocolate sundae with a diet Coke?

B. By giving is the righteousness of Christ.

- Righteousness is the action of holiness.
- Jesus was completely righteous in every way.
- There are two parts of righteousness; the avoidance of sin and obedience to God. Jesus did both.

C. These things are true because we are IN Christ Jesus.

- Romans 6 tells us that we were united with Him in His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Everything He did in the flesh, He gave to us.

- Therefore the requirement of the Law has been fulfilled in us. (Romans 8:4)

II. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?

A. God is for us.

- Romans 8 – If God is for us, who could be against us?
- This answers one of our most basic issues – our poor self-image. If we could only be convinced how much we are loved, it would change us forever.

B. We have the exchanged life.

- The life that I now live I live by faith in the Son of God. Gal 2:20.

Illus- Hudson Taylor discovered exchanged life – complete trust that the Lord was his life and sufficiency.

Illus- Imagine someone never owning a car and then having one with a powerful engine, but he insists on pushing it everywhere. He could even say, “Look at how far I’ve pushed that thing!!”

C. We are Ambassadors for Christ.

- Meaning that we are not at home here.

III. We have the word of reconciliation.

A. Representing the heart of God.

- Not using force or threat (the message of hellfire damnation).
- Some people feel it is their obligation to tell people how wrong they are.

B. God is entreating through us.

- This is truly amazing – that God would appeal to us to be reconciled to Him.
- That is how much God loves us!!

Illus- Sometimes I will even say that I have a message to them from God.

Illus- When I was in Khabarovsk and was visiting with a retired officer of the Russian army.

C. We need to show the power of a reconciled life.

Illus – The Bible college professor who was attacked in the parking lot...

Conclusion

If there is anything between you and the Lord now, why not be fully reconciled? Why let anything stand in the way when He has already done the reconciling?