

## Be Reconciled to God

II Corinthians 5:18-21

2/10/02

### Intro

- Africa Missions Dinner this Friday
- .....

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 RIGHTT 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.”

### B. By giving us 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.*

C. We are Ambassadors for Christ.

- Meaning that we are not at home here.

*Illus- Falling in love with Jordi vs. working for Mr. “M.”*

**III. Be in Christ.**

Vs 17

A. Old things passed away, new things have come.

- Many of our difficulties as Christians come from the struggle between our new spiritual nature and our fleshly bodies.

B. This is one of the greatest promises of our faith – that we are made new!

- We have a new heart, nature, future, name, family, beginning, new covenant, peace, promises (and better), song in our heart, and new life.
- So why put on the old clothes?

*Illus- If one of your children went playing in the mud and you gave him a bath, how would you feel if he put back on his old clothes?*

**IV. In order to truly change, we need to...**

A. Admit we cannot change on our own.

- Our changes never last.

B. Ask Christ to make the change.

- Our willingness is an important key.
- Ask Him to come in... not just to your Sunday morning, but to your whole life.

C. Be willing to let go of whatever  
you're holding onto.

- Sometimes we pray, we cry out,  
we moan – but won't let go of it.
- We must be willing to let go of  
the comfort we get from it.

*Illus – For a child there is great comfort in nursing*

Conclusion

**The old things have passed away and all things are  
new...**

**What clothes are you wearing?**

**Put on the armor of God.**

**Put on a garment of praise.**

**Put on the righteousness of Christ.**