

Christ is Our Reconciler

Colossians 1:19-23

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

I. What is the scope of this reconciliation? (19-20)

Reconciliation begins as an act of God's pleasure ("God was pleased...") and is accomplished "in," "through", and "by" Christ. He has reconciled all of creation to Himself through the blood of Jesus on the cross. We, as the objects of His wrath, were loved by Him so much that He gave His own son and His blood removed that justifiable wrath from us (propitiation).

II. What is the purpose of this reconciliation? (21-23)

We have a tendency to make salvation about us, when the scripture clearly teaches that our reconciliation is for God's glory (v. 22..."in order to present you...before God"). We are reconciled to God as people who were once alienated and hostile in mind toward Him. "BUT NOW" (Romans 3:21) we are declared holy, blameless, and above reproach.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
2. How is reconciliation accomplished?
3. Explain the definition of propitiation.
4. Why has God chosen to reconcile His creation to Himself?
5. What is the proof of a reconciled life?

Going Deeper

1. Have you been reconciled to Christ?
2. How is the Easter season different for you than your neighbors because of being reconciled to Christ?
3. Do you live as one declared holy, blameless, and above reproach or do you unnecessarily carry the burdens that were laid on Jesus?