

Ministry of Reconciliation



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2 Corinthians 5:11-16 (AMPC)

¹¹ Therefore, being conscious of fearing the Lord with **respect and reverence**, we seek to win people over [to **persuade** them]. But what sort of persons we are is plainly **recognized and thoroughly understood by God**, and I hope that it is plainly recognized *and* thoroughly understood also by your consciences (your inborn discernment).

¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again, but **we are providing you with an occasion and incentive to be [rightfully] proud of us**, so that you may have a reply for those who pride themselves on surface appearances [on the virtues they only appear to have], although their heart is devoid of them.

¹³ For if **we are beside ourselves [mad, as some say], it is for God** *and* concerns Him; if we are in our right mind, it is for your benefit,

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls *and* urges *and* impels us, because we are of the opinion *and* conviction that [if] One died for all, then **all died**;

¹⁵ And He died for all, so that **all those who live might live no longer to and for themselves, but to and for Him** Who died and was raised again for their sake.

¹⁶ Consequently, from now on **we estimate and regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value]. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint and as a man**, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh].

Definition

According to the dictionary definition,

“Reconciliation is the restoration of friendly relations.”

“Reconciliation is the action of making one view or belief compatible with another.”

The attitude of a reconciler

- Respect for the Lord (vs 11)
- Reverence for the Lord (vs 11)
- Persuasive (about winning others for the Lord) (vs 11)
- Recognizable by God (vs 11)
- Thoroughly understood by God (vs 11)
- Reputable character (vs 12)
- Zealous (vs 13)
- Dead in Christ, therefore, live for Him (vs 14 and 15).
- Do not regard anyone and Christ from a fleshly perspective, rather, a spiritual perspective (vs 16).

The reconciled

- **Has a new identity. Is a new creation. (vs 17)**

¹⁷ Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a **new creation** (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away.

Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!

- 1) A new creation is one who understands God’s original intent for them which includes (i) walking in the dominion over territories (sea, air, land); (ii) walking in the BLESSING (fruitful, multiply, fill, subdue, dominate (iii) understanding that your assignment was given to your creation ((spirit) **Genesis 1:28**) not your form (**Genesis 2:7**) (iv) living a purpose driven life daily.

- 2) A new creation is one who has died to their old ways and lifestyles (Christ died for all so that we no longer live for ourselves).

- **Has been given the ministry of reconciliation (vs 18)**

¹⁸ But all things are from God, Who through *Jesus* Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and **gave to us the ministry of reconciliation** [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

It is also noteworthy that,

- 1) God is the ultimate reconciler, therefore, if we want to learn more about reconciliation, let's follow His blueprint.
- 2) Effective reconciliation begins by first reconciling with God before man.
- 3) Effective reconciliation is only possible through Jesus Christ. Meaning, without Jesus Christ, sometimes reconciliation can and will be tough.
- 4) We have been given the ministry of reconciliation (and God has laid the blueprint of reconciliation) so, we ought to reconcile according to His standards. God's purpose for you comes down to one thing only "Ministry of Reconciliation".
- 5) Salvation is a form of reconciliation.
- 6) Seeking to understand God's purpose for you is a form of reconciliation.
- 7) In all we do, if it does not route humanity back to the kingdom, then it is not God's purpose for us.

The core message of the ministry of reconciliation (vs 19)

¹⁹ It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the **message of reconciliation** (of the restoration to favor).

The core message of the ministry of reconciliation is this, just like God in Christ reconciles the world to himself and not count people's sins against them. We too ought to reconcile and be reconciled with others then reconcile them to the Lord without counting their sins against them.

Carriers of the message and ministry of reconciliation (vs 20)

²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] *and* be reconciled to God.

Carriers of the message/ministry of reconciliation are called ambassadors of Christ. An ambassador of Christ therefore, is one who speaks for Christ by letting the people know that their sins no longer counts against them. As Christ ambassadors, we speak for Christ only when we plead, "Come back to God! For God has made Christ who never sinned, to be the offering of our sin, so that we will be made right with God through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). To live a sin conscious life or a guilt conscious life disqualifies a person as an ambassador of Christ. God's message/ministry of reconciliation through us should be something we are also currently experiencing.

What God did in order to make the ministry of reconciliation a reality (vs 21)

²¹ For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].