

► **2 Corinthians 5:18**
And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

► **Romans 5:11**
And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

► **Ephesians 2:12**
That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise,

ISSUE 2

VOLUME 1

AUGUST 17, 2011

Reconciled to GOD

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF BELIEVERS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD AND TO EACH OTHER

Helping you achieve true reconciliation

How do I reconcile the relationships in my life? This is a question that many believers ask when they are faced with challenges or conflicts with one another. The good news is that God has given us the pattern to reconciliation by demonstrating it Himself. God reconciled us to Himself so that He could show us ultimately how to be reconciled to each other.

In 2 Corinthians 5:20, we are invited to be “reconciled” to God. However, what is the true meaning of “reconciliation”? Here are four meanings that will help us to better understand the ministry of reconciliation.

The Meaning of Reconciliation

1) Reconciliation means to exchange

(Colossians 1:21, 22). To exchange means to give up one thing for another. Reconciled to God means to receive His exchange of holiness for your sinfulness. He took sin, wickedness and unrighteousness and in exchange, He gave us blamelessness, righteousness and holiness. Glory to God!

2) Reconciliation means to change or restore (Romans 5:10). To change means that something has been altered. You reconcile relationships where there's enmity or hostility. You don't reconcile bad relationships. You reconcile when there has been hostility between opposing parties. Reconciled to God means to have our relationship with God restored to a peaceful one (Romans 5:1).



BE RECONCILED

3) Reconciliation means unite or make atonement (Romans 5:11). The word atonement literally means to be “at-one-with”. It means to take two things that are divided and to make them one. Reconciled to God means to be made one with God, or to be in fellowship with Him.

4) Reconciliation means to come to an agreement (Mt. 5:23-25). In order to have reconciliation there must be agreement. Reconciliation is only possible under certain conditions. Reconciled to God means agreeing to His terms and conditions. God's terms and conditions for reconciliation is faith. (Colossians 1:23). We can only have reconciliation if we continue to believe in the atonement of Christ.



We have to settle what caused the break-up

Romans 5:7-8

For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

offending party. This is not the method that was used either.

God had a problem with mankind because man had no consciousness of his sins towards God. God cared even when we did not care. God did not wait on the offending party. He, being the injured party, initiated the reconciliation. Not only did God make the first move and initiate reconciliation, He also executed it because of His love for us. In other words, the hostility that existed between He and man has ceased, not because of what man has done, but because of what God has done through Christ (2Corinthians 5:19a, 21)!

2Corinthians 5:18 "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation"

In the case of man's reconciliation, the offending party (man) does not initiate the process (He feels no hostility towards God because of his sin. He's willing to let bygones be bygones).

God (the injured party) must initiate the reconciliation process. Therefore, man RECEIVES reconciliation at the hand of God (Romans 5:11). You have to receive reconciliation by FAITH!

The Process of Reconciliation

Reconciliation is a process. God had to rob of us of our sins because we were not trying to give them up. Traditionally reconciliation is made one of two ways:

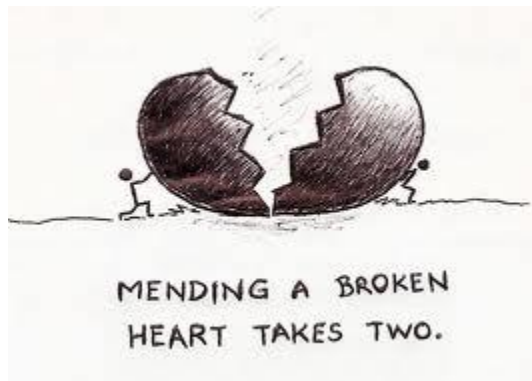
- 1) A third party (i.e. a mediator) can initiate reconciliation. Mediators do this by helping arguments to cease. This is not the method that God used for reconciliation.
- 2) One of the disputing parties can initiate reconciliation. Typically this is done by the



Harris Memorial Church

4317 Lippincott Burton, MI 48519
 Telephone: (810) 743-5325
 Fax: (810) 743-8065
 Harrismemorialcogic.com
 harrismemchurch@comcast.net

2 Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.



JOIN US NEXT WEEK AS WE CONTINUE
 THIS SERIES ON
**"RECONCILING
 RELATIONSHIPS"**

PASTOR ERIC C. BOGAN

GET RID OF THE STICKING POINT



The Effects of Reconciliation
 Romans 5:6-10; Ephesians 2:12

Before reconciliation we were:
 helpless, sinful, wicked, enemies,
 Christless, aliens, strangers,
 hopeless and Godless.

Now through reconciliation we received:

- Life (Romans 11:15)
- New Creation (2Corin. 5:17, 18)
- Justification (Colossians 1:22)
- Peace (Romans 5:1)
- Access (Romans 5:2)
- Delight/fellowship (Job 22:21, 26)