

"Reconciled to God"

Colossians 1:19-23

Vs. 19-20 - First: What is reconciliation? The restoration of a broken relationship to rightness.

1. Why do "all things on earth & in heaven" need to be reconciled to God?

- A. Everything that exists in creation was put there, not for mankind's enjoyment, but more as a tool by which mankind may worship & magnify the Creator through the proper use of it (creation).
 - I. Food/Wine - ought to inspire worship & point man towards God. (Also, nature, animals, the universe, opposite sex, sex, children, work, recreation, rest, etc.)
 - II. All of this (& more) as a whole was created to point & move man towards the worship & adoration of the Most High God who created it all and Who alone satisfies.
- B. This right relationship between creation and Creator was fractured at the fall because mankind chose to prefer creation over against the Creator.
 - I. Humans began to chose the things that could never satisfy. (*"A chasing after the wind."*)

Vs. 21-(22) - "You": It turns appallingly personal here. Whereas before it was general.

2. Even to this day, human beings, each one of us, have personally fallen into this Creature/creation flipflop cycle.

- A. We expect that the material things we have can satisfy us - but they don't.
 - I. And we continue to run laps around all that we have all of our lives in the vain hope that it will fill us. (*"Rat Race"*)

"For all of our days have declined in Your fury; we have finished our years like a sigh. As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, of if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; for soon it is gone and we fly away." - Moses (Psalm 90:9-10)

- B. Left unchecked, seeking from creation what the Creator can only give moves us to actual **hostility towards God**.
 - I. Someone has to take the blame for our frustration.
 - a.) Our minds mull it over and over again, sometimes for years. Eventually, we find others or even God Himself to blame.

"The woman you gave me, she gave me from the tree and I ate." - Adam (Genesis 3:12)

- C. When fully grown, this sin cycle grows into **"engaging in evil deeds"** as we justify our creation worship while blaming the Creator.
 - I. So if you blame your husband for your unhappiness & don't deal with it in Christlikeness, you become hostile in your thought life towards him.
 - a.) After years of this your hostility grows until it manifests itself through evil deeds.
 - i.) You might begin to treat him harshly; treat him like he treats you; accuse him and demean him to your friends; have emotional affairs, etc.)
 - b.) Same scenario plays out when you blame your parents, children, work, etc.
 - c.) Finally, we blame God.
 - i.) He hasn't helped us the way we thought He would. After too many let downs we begin to avoid Him, church, etc.
 - ii.) We become critical of the Most High.
 - iii.) Creature puts the Creator on the witness stand to defend Himself.

Vs. 22 & 20 - Here's the real kicker in all this - i.e., *How* God reconciles this alienation between you and Him.

3. "He made Him who knew no sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." - 2 Corinthians 5:21

- A. The Great Exchange.
 - I. He takes your sin, hostility, evil deeds, and alienation upon Himself and kills it all through His own Body on the Cross - And you get righteousness!
- B. That is the **ONLY WAY** to get out of this evil cycle of the creature/creation flipflop.
 - I. It is the only way to fix the alienation between a person and God and be reconciled to Him.
- C. You can't work your way out of it! **YOU NEED TO BE RESCUED.** It's been done for you by Christ.

"While we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son." - Romans 5:10

- D. Beware of wearing yourself out trying to earn God's love through better creation management!

Vs. 23 - There's a condition - "If you continue in your faith established and firm, not moved from the hope of the Gospel."

- A. This is not teaching that you can lose your salvation. On the contrary, your salvation is proved by your faith.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various [a]trials, 7 so that the [b]proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which [c]is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and [d]full of glory, 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. - 1 Peter 1:3-9

- B. What you really believe, where your heart really stands with all of this, will be proved by the fires of life.
 - I. You will get sick. You will have dark times. You will get worn out with life at times and weary. You will be treated wrongly.
 - II. When these things come your deepest "you" will be manifested. Will your faith stay stable? Will you put your confidence in creation or the Creator?
- C. One way to tell whether the reconciliation of God through Christ has pierced your heart for good:

"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation." - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

- I. Are you a Minister of Reconciliation?
- II. If the reconciliation of God through Christ has penetrated your deepest person you won't be able to stop yourself from telling people about it.
 - a.) This is what happened to Paul.

"Of which I Paul [insert your name here] have become a minister." - vs. 23