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2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation

You Belong to God. He Takes Good Care of His Own!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18)

Unlocking Your Greater Purpose Reconciled: Restored to favor Reassigned: Ministry (diakonia) of Reconciliation

The reconciliation believers receive from God is not only a personal benefit—it comes with a responsibility to extend it to others.

Definitions:

Dictionary: Reconciliation is the process of restoring friendly relations between people who have been in conflict or disagreement.

Bible Greek: Adjustment of a difference, restoration to favor

As with salvation, God's grace is the author of every provision, including reconciliation with God.

With human relations, reconciliation is the outcome of negotiation.

With God, reconciliation is the outcome of recognition.

That reconciliation for people is desired by God because He is the Creator people.

Every person is made in His Image and Likeness: *Imago Dei* (*latin for image of God*)

Reconciliation first requires conciliation

What are the factors that make reconciliation necessary?

Conciliation is the process of ending a fracture in a relationship

Where God is concerned, conciliation requires recognition:

1. Who is God?

2. What is human nature about?

What about human nature?

When people say, "God knows my heart," this is what God knows:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Confusion is the essence of human nature without God

"Confusion leads to becoming lost. People are not lost because they are going to wind up in the wrong place. People are going to wind up in the wrong place because they are lost." (Dallas Willard)

There are two G(g)ods

- 1) There is the god that people generally believe in –A god who has to serve them. This god does not exist.
- 2) There is God who people forget—the God whom all must ultimately serve. God being God offends human pride. "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (Rom. 3:18)

Indicators of the True God

- 1. Is from everlasting to everlasting
- 2. Known to Adam, Abraham, Moses and the even the pagans of every generation
- 3. Has the power to create, destroy, heal and reform
- 4. Passes final judgment

Who is the True God?

- 5. Knows the motivations of the heart
- 6. Has purpose that transcends self-serving interests of people
- 7. Manifests His presence in the earth through the Holy Spirit
- 8. Has a son name Jesus Christ, who is God the Son

2 Corinthians 5:18

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation



Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

Romans 1:16

For lam not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

1 Corinthians 15:1

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to youunless you believed in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:3

For I delivered to you first of all that which lalso received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures

We are not the "Sage on the stage, but the guide on the side."

Acts 8:35, Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

The only thing Philip could do to help the Ethiopian, not knowing him, was to "preach Jesus," Who is the essence of the Gospel.

Your Ministry of Reconciliation

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

To God, People are His "Prodigal Son" Parable of God's unfailing love (Luke 15:11-31)

- A man had two sons, One demanded his inheritance, and went to a "far country"
- Spent all he had in "riotous living," suffered greatly
- "He came to himself," did conciliation
- Came home for reconciliation

To God, People are His "Prodigal Son"

Parable of God's unfailing love (Luke 15:11-31)

- "But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion"
- Reconciled to his father with blessing
- The other son was angry at the kind treatment of the prodigal
- MORAL: Don't be mad at people God brings home

ONE MORAL TO THE STORY:

Don't be mad at people God brings home

Be part of the story of helping bring prodigals home to God!