

“A Call to Reconciliation”

II Corinthians 5:14-21

The word reconciliation literally means “to restore a good relationship between enemies, or to change from one condition to another, so as to remove all enmity and leave no impediment to unity and peace.” True reconciliation between us and God requires specific things to happen:

- I. For genuine reconciliation (i.e. salvation) to occur, A MIRACLE MUST BE EXPERIENCED (v. 18b “God reconciled us...”)
 - A. This is a miracle INITIATED BY GOD (v. 18a “..all these things are from God...”)
 - B. This is a miracle MEDIATED THROUGH CHRIST (v. 18b “...God reconciled us to Himself through Christ...”)
 - C. This is a miracle DEMONSTRATED BY CHANGE (v. 17 “...He is a new creation...”)
- II. For genuine reconciliation (i.e. salvation) to occur, A MESSAGE MUST BE EXPRESSED (v. 19 “...He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”)
 - A. It is a message regarding the COMPASSION OF CHRIST (v. 14a “the love of Christ controls us...”)
 - B. It is a message regarding the CROSS OF CHRIST (v. 15a “He died for all...” v. 15c “...He died and rose again on their behalf.”)
 - C. It is a message regarding the CONSECRATION TO CHRIST (v. 15b “...that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him...”)
- II. For genuine reconciliation (i.e. salvation) to occur, A MINISTRY MUST BE EXTENDED (v. 18b “...God...gave us the ministry of reconciliation...”)
 - A. Our ministry is a call for reconciliation TO GOD (v. 20 “...we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”) - EVANGELIZATION!
 - B. Our ministry is a call for reconciliation TO EACH OTHER (v. 21 “...that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”) - EDIFICATION!

A good illustration of reconciliation is the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. In verse 24 the father says, “this son of mine was dead, and he has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.” And they began to be merry. Do you need to be reconciled to God or to another believer? Are you actively involved in a ministry that helps others be reconciled to God?