Keith Essex
TMS Wives Discipleship
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RECONCILED TO GOD:
FROM ENMITY TO AMITY
(Colossians 1:20-23)

"The word *reconcile* is one of the most significant and descriptive terms in all of Scripture. It is one of five key words used in New Testament to describe the richness of salvation in Christ, along with *justification*, *redemption*, *forgiveness*, and *adoption*.

In justification, the sinner stands before God guilty and condemned, but is declared righteous (Rom 8:33). In redemption, the sinner stands before God as a slave, but is granted his freedom (Rom 6:18-22). In forgiveness, the sinner stands before God as a debtor, but the debt is paid and forgotten (Eph 1:7). In reconciliation, the sinner stands before God as an enemy, but becomes His friend (2 Cor 5:18-20). In adoption, the sinner stands before God as a stranger, but is made a son (Eph 1:5). A complete understanding of the doctrine of salvation would involve a detailed study of each of those terms. In Colossians 1:20-23, Paul gives a concise look at reconciliation" (John MacArthur, Jr., *Colossians & Philemon*, 55-6).

I. THE PLAN OF RECONCILIATION (1:20-22a)

- God's ultimate plan for the universe is **to reconcile all things to Himself** through Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ **has now reconciled you** [Christian Believers]

II. THE MEANS OF RECONCILIATION (1:22b)

- **In His fleshly body though death** [cf. **through the blood of His cross** in 1:20]

III. THE AIM OF RECONCILIATION (1:22c)

- **In order to present you before Him**
  - **Holy**
  - **Blameless**
  - **Beyond Reproach**

IV. THE EVIDENCE OF RECONCILIATION (1:23)

- Christian believers give evidence of being truly reconciled when **you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast** [see **steadfastness** also in 1:11] **and not moved away from the hope** [see **the hope laid up for you** also in 1:5]
- The content of the faith is **the gospel that you have heard** [see **heard … the gospel** also in 1:5]
  - **Which was proclaimed in all creation** [1:15, 16] **under heaven** [16, 20]
  - **Of which I Paul was made a servant**

The response of the Colossians to the gospel led Paul and Timothy to **give thanks to God … praying always for you** (1:4-8). The content of their prayer was that the Colossians **may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding** (1:9-14).

JESUS CHRIST

Creation	Cross	Completed Reconciliation
formerly	*now*	[*then*]
Domain of Darkness	[Heirs]	Kingdom of His Son
	Redemption Forgiveness of Sins	
Alienation - hostile in mind - evil deeds	Reconciliation - peace - worthy walk	Inheritance [Culmination] - holy - blameless - beyond reproach

So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord

Bearing fruit in every good work

Increasing in the knowledge of God

Strengthened with all power . . . for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience

Giving thanks joyously to the Father