

# Reconciliation: God Offers It To You

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

April 23, 2023

*"No one is to appear before me empty-handed" (Exo. 23:15; 34:20).*

The OT speaks about forgiveness (Psalm 32:1-2; Romans 4:7-8) but any reconciling is up to man approaching God with an offering

*<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:*

*"Reconciliation means the restoration of a good relationship between enemies." (p. 145, NIDNTT)*

1. God is the subject, the one doing the reconciling
2. God reconciled us to himself (see also Romans 5:10-12)
3. All Christians are called to this ministry team

*<sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

1. The grounds or basis of reconciliation is God's work in Christ
2. God offers salvation freely to all having reconciled the world
3. God doesn't keep track ; He longer counts our sins vs. us
4. Getting that message out is what counts

*<sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

1. His ambassadors, honestly! What was God thinking?
2. Imploring/begging has the ideas of urgency and emotion
3. Reconciliation is incomplete until accepted by both sides

Being reconciled to God eliminates pride & elevates worship

## On Your Own (better with others)

1. *agree/disagree*

Being reconciled to God means that since God did everything, you don't have to do anything.

2. READ John 6:28-29 and Acts 16:30-31. Based on these two passages, what would you say to a friend who wonders if they've done enough to be saved?
3. READ Colossians 1:19-23. How did God reconcile the world to himself and establish peace with his former enemies?
4. Where do you see examples in your own life of trying to please God (in order to be reconciled) instead of trusting God (that, in fact, He has already reconciled you to himself in Christ)?
5. Matching the words with their definition. They are scrambled. These are important ways to think about salvation in Christ.

1) Propitiation	a) The end goal of our sanctification (1 John 3:2)
2) Reconciliation	b) A legal declaration that changes the verdict from "guilty" to "not guilty" by faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 13:39 and Romans 5:1)
3) Forgiveness	c) The ongoing process by which Christ's image and holiness is increasingly developed in a Christian's life by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18)
4) Justification	d) Restoring a good relationship between enemies (2 Cor. 5:18-20)
5) Sanctification	e) The setting aside of sins to be remembered no more, but wiped clean and blotted out (Acts 2:38 and 3:19)
6) Glorification	f) The turning aside of God's righteous wrath against sin by means of a satisfactory sacrifice (1 John 2:2)