

Sermon Title: Grippled by the Reconciliation of God

Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 6:1-2

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to study, understand, and apply the reconciliation of God.

Sermon Proposition: There are 4 delegated aspects of God's reconciliation of lost mankind.

Introduction: Wayne Gruden Systematic Theology pp. 580 explains four terms of how Christ's death met four needs that mankind has as sinners:

1. We deserve to die as the penalty for sin.
2. We deserve to bear God's wrath against sin.
3. We are separated from God by our sin.
4. We are in bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan.

Reconciliation deals with the fact that, mankind is separated from God by our sins. **(Colossians 1:19-22)**

To overcome our separation from God, we needed someone to provide reconciliation and thereby bring us back into fellowship with God. The death of Christ also brings to an end the enmity and estrangement that exist between God and humankind. Our hostility toward God is removed and God's hostility toward our sin is removed.

The question of universalism and Scripture: (John 1:29; 1 John 4:14)

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

Salvation of God, verses the judgment of God. The answer to the question of salvation for all men and judgment of some men, is the universal language (eg. "world"; "all"; "everyone") in certain passages of scripture must be understood as referring to mankind in general. Christ did not die for all men without exception, but for all men without distinction. World, in these contexts of scripture, indicate the sphere in which reconciliation takes place, it denotes the class of being which whom God seeks reconciliation – people from every national, racial, and ethnic group.

I. The delegated **ministry of reconciliation. V.16-17**

A. Delegated to those **positional** in Christ.

The glorious good news of the gospel is that sin destroyed the relationship between lost sinners and a Holy God, but the relationship can be restored, when a person truly believes in the person and work of Christ related to salvation. God places and positions the believer in Christ and all that Christ is.

B. Delegated to those **transformed** by Christ.

1. To be a new creation means to have one's whole being, nature, life, and behavior change.
2. Relationship with God has changed.
3. Fellowship with God is possible.
4. Righteousness and holiness is the new focus.
5. The believer never dies or faces condemnation.

To be in Christ and to have Christ in you means a Christian walks and lives in Christ day by day. It means he does not walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit **(Romans 8:1)** *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. . . 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.).* It means denying ungodliness and worldly lust, but we live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age.

(Titus 2:12)

1. Attached to Christ **(John 15:4-7)**
2. Attached to one another **(1 Corinthians 12:12-27)**

II. The delegated **message** of reconciliation. V.18-19

- A. Reconciliation is by the **authority** of God. V.18a
- B. Reconciliation is by the **action** of Christ. V.18b
- C. Reconciliation is by the **activity** of the Christians. V.18c
"People do not want the Trinitarian Lordship, Leadership, or limitation, therefore they never experience God's plan of peace, power, or provisions."
- D. Reconciliation is by the **agent** of forgiveness. V.19a
John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
John 4:42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."
1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *as* Savior of the world.
- E. Reconciliation is by the **attributes** of forgiveness. V.19b (**Romans 12:18**)
Psalms 32:1 Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven, *Whose* sin *is* covered. ² Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.
Romans 4:8 Blessed *is the* man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin."

III. The delegated **messengers** of reconciliation. V.19c-21

- A. Reconciliation is communicated by the **pleading** of Saints. V.19a-20
(**2 Cor. 4:17-18; Rom. 4:5; 5:1; 10:13-15**)
Galatians 2:16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."
Galatians 3:11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for "the just shall live by faith."
Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.
 - 1. Mourning over sin, repentance, mercy. (**James 4:8-10**)
 - 2. Jesus is God.
John 8:24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."
 - 3. Salvation in Christ only (**John 14:7; Acts 4:12**)
 - 4. Confessing Jesus as Lord.
Romans 10:9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.
- B. Reconciliation is consummated by the **principle** of substitution. V.21
 - 1. The principle of the **benefactor**. V.21a
 - 2. The principle of the **substitute**. V.21b
 - 3. The principle of the **beneficiaries**. V.21c
 - 4. The principle of the **benefit**. V.21d

IV. The delegated **moment** of reconciliation. V.6:1-2