

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION  
II COR. 5:18-21

Introduction:

- A. Reconciliation, its meaning.
  - 1. reconcile = katallasso - to change a person, to act so that the opposite party may lay aside his enmity.
  - 2. This does not mean a mutual change, or compromise. Men change, God doesn't.
  
- B. Man's reconciliation with God is affected by God and not by man.
  - 1. "and all things are of God."
  - 2. This does not have reference to creation but to the things under consideration.

I. WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD. V18b

- A. "...who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ."
  - 1. God has changed us by His power to make us as righteous as Himself.
  
- B. How does God do this?
  - 1. By Jesus Christ.

II. WE HAVE THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION.

- A. "and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation."
  - 1. The "us" is the preacher and the church.
  - 2. Men are reconciled to God by the gospel.
    - a. Rom. 1:16.
  
- B. We do not preach reformation and good works.
  - 1. The Pharisees would have been reconciled.
  - 2. We preach Christ and "born again."

III. THE FOUNDATION AND WORKING OF RECONCILIATION.

- A. "to wit, that God was in Christ."
  - 1. Phil. 2:5-8.
  - 2. Christ was God, God was in the Person of Christ.
  
- b. "reconciling the world unto himself."
  - 1. Men cannot change God.
  - 2. God must change men.
  
- C. "not imputing their trespasses unto them."
  - 1. How can God reconcile if He imputes our sins to us?
  - 2. The Quarrel would constantly erupt.
  - 3. impute = logizomai - to occupy one's self with reckonings and calculations, to reckon or count, to put anything to a persons account, either in his favor or what he must be answerable for.
  - 4. Rom. 4:1-8.
  
- D. "and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."
  - 1. committed = didomi - to give, (the idea of giving freely and without force) power or possession of anyone.
  - 2. word = logos - the spoken word.
  - 3. The truth is given to us to preach or has been placed in us.

#### IV. THE COMMITMENT OF THE WORD HAS PLACED US IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION.

- A. "now then we are ambassadors for Christ."
  - 1. ambassadors = presbeuo - to be an elder or eldest, to rank before, to be an ambassador, to treat or negotiate as one.
  - 2. Ambassadors speak for another.
  - 3. They have the authority of their sovereign.
  - 4. To harm the ambassador is to harm the sovereign of the ambassador.
  
- B. "as though God did beseech you by us."

1. God pleads with you by us.
  2. WE are God's voice.
- C. "we pray you in Christ's stead."
1. We beg you as Christ's representatives.
  3. We implore you on Christ's behalf.
- D. "be ye reconciled to God."
1. Make your peace with God.
  2. Come to God on God's terms.
- E. The basis of reconciliation restated.
1. v21.
  2. God made Jesus to be a sin offering. Jesus knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Jesus.
  3. We attain this righteousness by faith.