

How God reconciled us to Himself and how that reconciliation changes ALL of our relationships.

Attributes of God #6 Noah Largent 3/25/18

ATTRIBUTES

A series exploring the attributes of God and discovering what they tell us about knowing Him

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; what is old has passed away—look, what is new has come! ¹⁸ And all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and who has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ In other words, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting people's trespasses against them, and he has given us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His plea through us. We plead with you on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God!" ²¹ God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God.

Sin produces separation in our relationships.

We see it in politics, in the book of Genesis, in marriages and in parking lots (Dan's story last week).

Genesis 3:12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.

Ephesians 2:12-13 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated... having no hope and without God in the world.

The word "*reconcile*" in some form occurs 5 times in these five verses.

"Reconciliation that makes fellowship with God possible for all, may be the central concept in Christianity" -*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*, pg. 726

How are we reconciled to God?

2 Corinthians 5:18 all these things are from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ

Ephesians 2:12-13 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated... having no hope and without God... ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who used to be far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The Bible makes clear that the work of reconciliation was done by God. Paul makes a simple, clear and powerful statement that the payment that makes reconciliation possible was Jesus' death. Jesus died the death we deserve and in exchange we receive the reward He deserved.

How our new relationship with God changes ALL of our relationships.

2 Corinthians 5:19&20 he has given us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making His plea through us.

"I tell our church people and it needs to be reiterated again and again, the only reason the church is still on Earth is to do the work of evangelism. Everything else that we do, we would do perfectly in heaven, but there's no evangelism there." -*John MacArthur*, www.gty.org: *Sermon - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21* Aug 15, 2008.

Notes:
