



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Reconciled

Date: April 28, 2024

Scripture Text: Colossians 1:20-23

Notes:

The Church of Colosse was established by a man named Epaphras. During the three years the Apostle Paul ministered in Ephesus, he and Epaphras crossed paths and he was saved. Epaphras then went home to Colosse and shared the good news about Jesus and soon the Colossian church was founded. But many times, when God is doing a work, Satan is not far behind, looking for opportunities to undermine the work. Paul writes his letter to the church in Colosse during his imprisonment in Rome to address any doubts concerning who Jesus was and to emphasize His preeminence. In today's sermon, we look and the role of Jesus as the reconciler. It is by Christ that our relationship with God is restored. Today's passage addresses God's relationship with people as it describes four aspects of reconciliation.

I. Reconciliation is God's Plan (Colossians 1:19-20)

As a result of Adam & Eve's original sin, God's relationship with people changed. He could not fellowship with a people stained by sin. But He had a plan! Through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, paying the penalty for sin, our relationship with God has been reconciled. It is solely through the actions of Christ we have been reconciled with God. There was nothing additional that needed to be done. Christ's actions were sufficient ([Eph. 2:8-9](#)).

- At times people try to add requirements on top of what Christ did to restore our relationship with God.
 - What are examples of things people may say need to be done, other than the work of Christ, for us to have a relationship with God?
 - What do you think is the motivation to add requirements for salvation?
 - Why is the work of Christ sufficient?
- What does it say about God's love for you to give up His only Son so your relationship with Him could be restored ([John 3:16](#))?

II. The People to be Reconciled (Colossians 1:21)

The redemptive work of Christ is sufficient for all, for all time. All are in need of reconciliation as all are *alienated* from God. It is God's desire that all be saved ([1 Tim. 2:3-4](#)), but not all will accept the fact of their need for reconciliation.



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- If asked, what are examples of answers people may give for how they will get to heaven?
- What does it mean that we were “*formerly alienated*”?
- Explain in your own words the true way to heaven.
- Pause and pray for someone you know who needs to be reconciled to God through Christ.

III. The Purpose for Reconciliation (Colossians 1:22)

For those willing to accept the work of Christ for the forgiveness of sin, God now sees them through the filter of Christ. Because Christ is holy, blameless and beyond reproach, God views those who accept Him the same way.

- How does understanding that God views us through the filter of Christ, affect how we live?
 - Does this filter of Christ give us license to live however we want?
- Does the way we live influence how others view Christ? Explain.
- What areas of your life do you need to be more diligent to be consistent with Christ?

IV. The Proof of Reconciliation (Colossians 1:23)

The “*hope of the gospel*” is placing our faith in the redemptive work of Christ and its sufficiency. This ‘*hope*’ is not wishful thinking, but an assurance that though the gospel of Jesus Christ we are reconciled with God.

- What are examples of circumstances that can cause us to waver in our faith?
- How can spending time in the Bible, prayer, and Christian fellowship help us in times like these?
- [2 Cor. 5:18-20](#) states that Christians are called to a ministry of reconciliation.
 - What does that mean?
 - How are you fulfilling your ministry of reconciliation?