

Spiritual Death

Colossians 1:22

22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

Yet this is important in correctly understanding the Word of God; This is not adverbial –translated **but** rather this is conjunctive use of the Greek – correctly translated **yet** with the point being, in spite of the fact that we were **alienated, hostile in thinking toward God and engaged in evil deeds—yet – in spite of all this...**here is what God did.

Yet even though we were His enemies, **He, JESUS CHRIST, has now reconciled you.**

The Greek adverb translated **now** emphasizes the former state of verse 21 **you were formerly...now** emphasizing the present condition of these believers

Yet He has now reconciled you

**You want to talk about mercy, here it is
You want an example of grace, here it is.**

now in contrast to what you were when identified with Adam, to what you are now, identified with Christ.

reconciled

Aorist Active Indicative of the all-important word **to reconcile**. Only this is the strongest word for reconciliation.

Apokatallasso

This is a compound verb made up of the prefix *apo* from— indicating the state to be left behind; plus *katallasso* which simply means “*to which you are moved into.*”

Apokatallasso is the stronger term for conveying the idea of being reconciled.

The word we have here in Colossians 1:22 means to establish a relationship of **peace** not existing before, and establishing **peace** that has been interrupted by something detrimental to the relationship.

This word is so rich in our relationship with God and gives insight into our relationships with One Another.

1

This verb is Aorist Active Indicative:

The Aorist tense— is used to show the permanence of being reconciled with God.

Since the moment you believed in JESUS CHRIST as Savior, here is one of the 34 things God gave you and did to you.

You were permanently reconciled with God, you cannot lose this position by anything you do. Neither God, angels or man or you can take away your being reconciled with God.

The Active voice—

God did the reconciling not you and this is grace.

And this is why it is permanent.

The Indicative mood— is the mood of reality.

No matter how you may feel you are Reconciled with God.

2

This word—reconciled—means to be transferred from one position before God to an entirely different position with God.

But not only is it different—**it is permanent!**

So even when you are carnal in the flesh;

Positionally; you are reconciled with God.

3

We are moved from a position of being alienated from God...
from being hostile in our thinking against God...
we are moved from being an enemy of God...
to eternal harmony with God.

4

The Greek word here refers to the mechanics of establishing this reconciled state.

This state is accomplished by
The Work of JESUS CHRIST On The cross.

Ephesians 2:14-16

14 **For He Himself is our peace**, peace is a person, the person of JESUS CHRIST who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, this is how He did it.

15 **by abolishing in His flesh the enmity**, that which causes hostility **which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances**, It is amazing how many Christians, Pastor-Teachers, who desire so strongly to keep us under the Law, especially when you consider that JESUS CHRIST died on the cross to

remove the Law so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, believing Jews and believing Gentiles *thus establishing peace*, Peace is harmony with God made possible through JESUS CHRIST

16 *and might reconcile them* this is the same strong Greek word for Reconciliation as in Colossians 1:22 *both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity*

**And what is that enmity?
The Law!**

We will see this in *Colossians 2:13-14*

13 *When you were dead in your transgressions* another description of all members of human race at physical birth *and the uncircumcision of your flesh,*

He JESUS CHRIST made you alive spiritually together with Him, having forgiven us *all our transgressions,*

14 How did He accomplish this? *having canceled out the certificate of debt Mosaic Law consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it*

out of the way, how **having nailed it to the cross.**

Be very careful... when someone tells you we are under the Law at this time in history. They are completely discrediting the work of Christ on the cross.

Lies taught about the Cross work of JESUS CHRIST

1	You can lose your salvation
2	We are still under the Law
3	You will have pay for your sins
4	You have to work to be righteous before God
5	You can earn your salvation by good works
6	Certain sins will keep you out of heaven
7	You have to work to be acceptable to God

Colossians 1:22

²² **yet** in spite of being an enemy of God **He has now** in contrast to what we were before salvation **reconciled you**

This raises a few questions:

- (1) Who is doing the reconciling?
- (2) to Whom are they reconciled?

There are two possible answers to the first question. It may be that JESUS CHRIST Himself is the One Who is doing the reconciling.

This certainly seems to be what this verse is teaching that JESUS CHRIST reconciles us through His own body—suffering on the cross.

But passages like 2 Corinthians 5:19 make it clear that God reconciles the world to Himself through JESUS CHRIST.

2 Corinthians 5:19

19 **namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation**

As to the second question,
WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD THE FATHER.

Reconciliation is the first work of God from which man benefits eternally.

God the Father Planned it;

God the Son Executed it;

God the Holy Spirit Reveals it;

Question

Which member of the Godhead tore the wall of separation down?

Answer **Second member - JESUS CHRIST**

Question Which member of Godhead *revealed* it to you?

Answer **God the Holy Spirit**

Question Which member of the Godhead *loved* you so much that He made this plan?

Answer **God the Father**

Question What do I do for Reconciliation?

Answer **Nothing...simply believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior**

**This is how easy God has made it...
SIMPLY BELIEVE in a member of the Godhead!**

God made it simple – otherwise there would be no **New Spiritual Creation**; for fallen man can do nothing but believe in member of Godhead...and this sets the pattern on how a **New Spiritual Creation** regains Spirituality if he/she has fallen into sin...nothing we can do but to trust in the work of a member of the Godhead.

Next, we have two explanatory prepositional phrases.

in His fleshly body through death,

In respect to His fleshly body introduces the circumstances accompanying bringing about Reconciliation. JESUS CHRIST had to have a physical, human body to reconcile mankind to God the Father. This phrase also confirms the fact that God became a true member of human race.

Remember this has been battled throughout Church history, as sown in the early Church counsels.

And the phrase **through death** reveals the means of reconciliation.

“He reconciled you when in His physical body by dying”

This raises a very important question:

Why death in the singular and not in the plural as in Isaiah 53:9?

The answer is found in the prepositional phrase **through death**. We could have well spent hours on the study of *death* in the bible.

Here in Colossians 1:22

we have the preposition *dia* + the genitive of *thanatos*.

This is used here to refer to His **Spiritual Death**.

When it comes to His **physical death** the Greek word *nekros* is used.

How can we say this? We must be honest with the Greek language

First: When The Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST is mentioned, He is resurrected from *nekros* not from *thanatos*.

Matthew 28: 7 An angel is speaking to the women who came to the grave site early Sunday morning.

7 “Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead;

The word used here is *nekros* not *thanatos* and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”

Luke 24: 5

5 and as *the women* were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, *the men angels* said to them, “Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? Again, *nekros*, not *thanatos*.

John 20: 9

9 For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Again *nekros*, not *thanatos*.

But when the emphasis is on the Spiritual death of JESUS CHRIST as the payment for sins *thanatos*.

1 Corinthians 15: 3

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died *thanatos* for our sins according to the Scriptures,

So the First reason for understanding the word used for His resurrection from the dead—physical death—is the Greek word *nekros*. But there is a very important second reason.

Let us look at the Greek word *thanatos*.

First from the basic Greek Lexicon “**A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature**” by William Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich.

On page 352 under defining the Greek word *thanatos* from page 351, under *figurative use of the word* the first thing mentioned is Spiritual death to which everyone is subject.”

Secondly from the Greek Lexicon “**The Complete Biblical Library**” (six vol) in vol. 3, page 69:

“*thanatos* in classical Greek includes ‘**the act of dying**’

“It also refers to non-physical death (perhaps spiritual or mental).”

Then on page 70: “The moment Adam defied the commandment of God, he sinned and ‘death’ was introduced.”

This does not mean that he died physically, although this came about later.

Instead, he was separated from God, though he did not cease to exist. **This spiritual death Adam has passed on to all mankind.** This condition of death is the curse passed on to all mankind. This condition of death is the curse of humanity (Ephesians 2:5), and by nature all men are spiritually dead (cf Ephesians 2:3).

As was true with the first man, all are separated from God by a high and insurmountable wall or fathomless gulf. This separation is the essence of ‘death’.”

Then in a few paragraphs down, this lexicon writes:
“Man is an organic unity of **body, soul, and spirit.**”

The separation which brings spiritual death thus has a profound impact on the entire being.

Therefore, physical death is an inevitable consequence of the fall. Those who are spiritually dead can be awakened to spiritual life (Ephesians 2:1) and the physically dead to a bodily resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

However, those who die without Christ are eternally dead and have no hope of a future resurrection to life; their destiny is final and unchangeable. The Bible refers to a “second death” (Revelation 20:14) from which no one will be resurrected.”

Next, in “**The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology Vol. 1**, edited by Colin Brown. Under this discussion of *thanatos* he talks about Spiritual Death, where he explicitly says: “Spiritual” death and “physical” death inextricably bound up together, constitute the reality of a life in sin”.

Relating the death JESUS CHRIST died on the cross and the imputation of all the sins of the world on Him while on the cross, results in the Spiritual death of JESUS CHRIST and then the physical death of JESUS CHRIST on the cross

While Hermann Cremer in his “**Biblico-Theological Lexicon of New Testament Greek** does not mention spiritual death under his discussion of *thanatos* he does give an excellent brief description of spiritual death. Especially, in saying: “The essence of death, accordingly, does not consist in the extinction of the man, but rather in the fact of its depriving him of what he might have had in and through his life, and thus in forming a distinct antithesis to life, so far as life is to the man a possession and a blessing.”

In summary:

When Adam sinned, he died spiritually immediately and then later he died physically. Both spiritual and physical death are a result of sin. **The wages of sin is death.** So, on the cross, JESUS CHRIST first died spiritually, as did the first Adam, and then He died physically.

Colossians 1:22

22 **yet** in spite of being an enemy of God **He has now** in contrast to what we were before salvation **reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, In respect to His fleshly body through death.** Again, this refers to His Spiritual death. To be accurate to all Scriptures, Christ died twice on the cross and often passages distinguish between the two deaths of Christ by using the Greek word *thanatos* for His spiritual death and *nekros* for His physical death.

Both deaths, spiritual and physical deaths
are a result of sin.

wages of sins is death. This is all beautifully understood in comparing the first Adam with the Last Adam.

Now why did JESUS CHRIST die on the cross?

in order to present you

Question:

Present you where?... or before whom?...
This will come up at the end of the verse.

This refers to each person individually. And it is the *Aorist Active Indicative* of the Greek compound verb meaning *to place near or cause to stand near*.

The *Aorist* here means that at the point of Faith in JESUS CHRIST, you were placed near (reconciled) to God the Father.
and

The *Active Voice* means JESUS CHRIST does this, you do not cause yourself to stand near to God, JESUS CHRIST did this on the cross by removing the barrier between man and God.

The *Infinitive* denotes the purpose of God.

It is God's purpose in sending His son to the cross so that at the second anyone believes in JESUS CHRIST as their Savior they are moved into perfect standing with Him.

Salvation is never an issue again.

But our eternal life salvation serves as an example of how we are restored to God as believers when we have sinned.

(L. S. Chafer, chapter 7 of **“He that is Spiritual”**)

Ok why did JESUS CHRIST go to the cross?

In order to present you before Him

Actually, this phrase—**before Him** occurs at the end of the sentence, giving emphasis to how we are presented before God, in contrast to how we were as unsaved enemies of God.

Note:

The threefold description of how we are presented before God by faith in JESUS CHRIST.

present you Holy, blameless and beyond reproach before Him

Do any of you feel this way about yourself?

Well you should because this is how you stand before God in Christ.

This is why JESUS CHRIST came to the earth in First Advent.

HoLy This Greek adjective is understood in a number of ways:

Holy, Set Apart, Sanctified, Saint, Pure.

Coming off verse 21, this word means you are no longer alienated.

You are cleansed from all sin and guiltiness.

This word fundamentally carries the idea of being **separated** from the world and consecrated or devoted to the service of God. Not just morally holy, morally pure but **Holy Positionally before God.**

No matter how you live here on earth in this fleshly body, when God looks at you, He sees you as Holy by virtue of your position in His Son.

Now if you live as you are in Christ—**separated** from the world, for this reason the world will hate you John 15:19.

JESUS CHRIST speaking to His 11 disciples after the upper room
John 15:19

19 “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Then in His prayer JESUS CHRIST prayed for those who are **separated** out from the world.

John 17: 13-19

13 “But now I JESUS CHRIST come to You; God His Father and ours and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. Every one of us may have His joy made full in us!

14 “I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are

not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil *one*. Satan

16 “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. If you wish to be sanctified experientially – abide in His Word

18 “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

19 “For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth

NASV Blameless

KJ unblamable

K.Wuest without blemish;

or faultless or without blame.

This adjective is translated:

Without Blame; Without Fault; Without Blemish; or Without Defect.

Think of being in this state while before Faith in Christ you were ***hostile in thinking and produced nothing but evil deeds, corrupt, dead in sin*** but look at what Faith in JESUS CHRIST has accomplished in you.

And beyond reproach This is a rich word and very important In the Greek.

It is a compound adjective with the negative prefix...**not** or **without** + the verb meaning to bring a charge against someone in court. This word means free of any legal charge.

Oh, people please do not allow another believer or unbeliever make you feel guilty. Before God you are without guilt. “not merely un-accusable, but un-accused”.

Before Him

Question: Before whom?

Certainly not before other members of human racer.

No, this is **before God**

This means in the thinking of God;
God’s assessment of you in Christ.

Two major points to remember from this phrase:

Colossians 1:22

22 **yet** in spite of the fact of how horrible, impure you were
He has now;

(now that you are in Christ by Faith in Christ as Savior)
**reconciled you in His fleshly body
through death, in order to present you
holy and blameless and beyond reproach
before Him**

**This is why JESUS CHRIST came to earth and
took the form of man and
died both spiritually and physically on the cross.
TO BRING US TO GOD THE FATHER.**

And Secondly: this one verse answers the Ten Questions of Job 4:17

1	Can mankind be <u>JUST</u> before God?	
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2	Can a man be <u>PURE</u> before his Maker?	8:3
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3	Does God pervert <u>JUSTICE?</u>	
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4	Or does the Almighty pervert what is <u>RIGHT</u> ?	9:2
5	“In TRUTH I know that this is so, But how can a man be in the <u>right</u> before God?	14:4
6	Who can make <u>CLEAN</u> out of the unclean? No one!	15:14
7	"What is man, that he should be <u>PURE</u> ?	
8	Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be <u>RIGHTEOUS</u> ?	25:4
9	"How then can a man be <u>JUST</u> with God?	
10	Or how can he be <u>CLEAN</u> who is born of woman?	

Note the words of issue:

Just and Justice; Pure, Right, Clean, Righteous

All of these are obstacles to our being saved.

All these are obstacles to our being near to God.

In fact, these words describe
WHY WE ARE ALIENATED FROM GOD.

But all ten questions are answered in this one verse of
Colossians 1:22.

22 **yet** in spite of the fact that we were all guilty before the Justice of God, because we were unrighteous and impure and unclean;
in spite of all this **He has now** by Faith in JESUS CHRIST **reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you holy and blameless and beyond reproach—before Him.**

AMEN

Now, for further comfort:

While the heavens and the earth will be destroyed

**the Bible is unchangeable,
His Word abideth forever.**

*You have more comfort, more stability in the Word of God
than you do in the universe.*

You can rest in His Faithfulness

of your Eternal existence with Him.

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the Word of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.





