

## Reconciliation

**Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups (Jew and gentile) into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,**

**Ephesians 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two one new man, in this way establishing peace;**

**Ephesians 2:16 and that He might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the hostility.**

This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross, the last 3 hours of the six hours He was on the cross. These three hours were devoted to fulfilling Reconciliation or removing the barrier between man and God.

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.**

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**Question:** Which member of the Godhead tore the wall of separation down between Jews and Gentiles?

**Answer:** The second member of the God-head, 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 a member of the Godhead. 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 person and work of a member of the Godhead, God the Son, Jesus Christ.

If we could just see and understand the Love of God!

His love does not, cannot counter His Perfect Righteousness.

But His love provided a simple way to receive His love and His Grace and Mercy.

Whenever you are using Faith in a Member of the Godhead you are doing nothing! But, you receive the grace and love of God. You are going to be benefited by His love. When we use faith in a member of the Godhead, it is miraculous because we do nothing and the object of our faith does all the work and we receive the benefit from His doing.

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This is where Religion has it so wrong.

I, God will do for you,

IF you will do for me

Promise!!!

So religion comes along and says, “See, I am doing faith, I believe if I do for Him then He will do for me—He will Reconcile me, He will save me, He will restore me as a believer.”

**Versus**

I, God will do for you

Trust Me

Promise!!!

Do you see the difference? First one, you are trusting Him to accept your works...which He will not do. In the second, you are simply trusting Him! For Reconciliation, for Salvation and for spirituality.

***Doctrine of Reconciliation***

I. Three pertinent doctrines

Redemption — sin-ward side of the cross

Reconciliation — man-ward side of the cross

Propitiation — God-ward side of the work of Christ on the cross

II. The word Reconciled means that we are moved from being enemies of God to being friends of God. By removing the barrier of sin, God established the way of peace between God and man. God is propitiated—satisfied, by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

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Man is Reconciled by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Man is the offender, God was the one offended and God, not man, provided for man to be reconciled.

Think about this: You hurt someone—you offended someone, and they, not you, provided everything necessary for there to be reconciliation between them and you.

A wife commits infidelity, and it is the husband who provides the way of reconciliation. We learn a great deal about the husband, and his desire for this marriage. Well, this is a picture of our being Reconciled with God. He does everything necessary to be reconciled with Him.

III. Here in Ephesians 2:16, the *aorist active subjunctive* is used to express that something is uncertain and often of a wish, or desire or even a hope. The *aorist* tense expresses something as completely taken care of at the cross. The *active* voice is interesting theologically: while it is Jesus who does the work of Reconciliation, it is God the Father who actually reconciles man to Himself by the cross-work of Jesus Christ not Jesus or man. The human way of doing things is that the one who does wrong or hurts another, it is generally up to that person to do something to bring about Reconciliation. But there is nothing we can do. So God Himself brings about Reconciliation. It is His Son who does the work on the cross and the Father Himself reconciles mankind.

In the *aorist*: reconciled to God by the person and work of His Son, Jesus Christ on the cross.

The *infinitive* is used to denote *purpose*. It is the purpose of God in Christ going to the cross to reconcile man to Himself. It is amazing how many believers want to rebuild

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this barrier—so they can tear it down by something they do! That is, it can be broken by some sin they may do, and then they do something to re-establish or reconcile to God by something they do: Confess, Repent, Sorrow, Going off and sitting in a corner.

Well, God has provided reconciliation...

IV. The Greek word, to reconcile is a compound word and means to change, exchange or reconcile. To transfer from one state to another, to a new state which is completely different. Reconcile is a term used for the work of Jesus Christ on the cross whereby He removes the barrier between God and man so that man is brought into spiritual harmony and fellowship with God.

Vincent: “the verb means primarily to exchange, and hence to change the relation of hostile parties into a relation of peace; to reconcile.”

- V. Reconciliation is the removal of the barrier between man and God, so that God can impute His Perfect Righteousness to man and Justify everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.
- VI. It is God who initiates this reconciliation in the person and work of His Son on the cross. Man is reconciled to God, not God to man!
- VII. Man is reconciled, God is propitiated and both these things happen at the cross.
- VIII. Jesus Christ is the Agent of *Reconciliation* and He is the Agent of *Propitiation* and He is the Agent of *Redemption*.
- IX. The *Mechanics* of Reconciliation is the Removal of the Barrier, establishing peace between God and man.

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**Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself (Jesus Christ) is our peace, (with God) who made both groups (Jew and Gentile) into one (body of Christ) and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,**

**Ephesians 2:15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, (cause of hatred, hostility) which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself (Jesus Christ on the cross). He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,**

**Ephesians 2:16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it (the cross) having put to death the enmity**

Now before we leave this point, note in verse 15— one of the causes of hatred, enmity between man and God is the Law! This is going to help us correctly understand:

**Colossians 2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, (this is the Law) which was hostile to us; (since we were born Spiritually dead with an Inherited Sin Nature [ISN]) and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

This is a powerful phrase, especially to those who desire to make us live by the Law!!! It was nailed to the cross of Christ! This is why we must understand that Reconciliation is the removal of the barrier between God and man. God is on one side of this barrier, and man is on

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the other side. This barrier is not simple to grasp, for it is made up of several things that separates man from God. It is made up of all Personal Sins, man's Un-Righteousness, and God's perfect Righteousness and the Law that separates us from God.

And so the problem is How Is the Barrier Going to be Removed?

That is the doctrine of Reconciliation. As you fully grasp this you will give thanks to God all the time for the person and work of His Son on the Cross, and you will understand why God will save anyone who will believe in His Son!

X. The cross is the point of Reconciliation.

**Colossians 1:20 and through Him (Jesus Christ) to reconcile all things to Himself, (God the Father) having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

The barrier is removed during the three hours Christ was judged for the sins of the world. The last three hours on the cross, when the entire area was covered in darkness.

XI. The death of Jesus Christ is the instrument of Reconciliation and the intermediate cause of Reconciliation.

**Romans 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.**

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**Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

Every unbeliever is regarded as the *enemy of God!*

You and I were enemies of God, but through Christ we became friends of God, in Christ.

XII. Our purpose on earth, after Salvation, is the ministry of Reconciliation.

**2 Corinthians 5:18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,**

1. It is God who reconciles mankind to Himself.
2. He reconciles us through or by the person and work of Jesus Christ.
3. Then He, God the Father, gave us the ministry of reconciliation—that is, it is our ministry, and our privilege to tell others how they also are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Again, this answers the questions often asked:

Why Jesus Christ?

Who is Jesus Christ ?

**2 Corinthians 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them,**



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But putting them all on Jesus Christ: He was smitten, stricken and afflicted (Isaiah 53) *and He (God the Father) has committed to us the word of reconciliation.* Here is the greatest blessing you will have in your life!

**2 Corinthians 5:20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; (this is our message) we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (by Faith only in Jesus Christ only.)

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He (God the Father) made Him (Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, (His soul crushed on the cross) so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

By Faith in Jesus Christ, God imputes His own Perfect Righteousness into everyone who believes in Jesus Christ and then Justifies them to Eternal Life with Jesus Christ.

XIII. Faith is the appropriation of Reconciliation. Faith in His Son is the response God is looking for in Reconciliation.

XIV. Reconciliation is taught in the Old Testament in the Levitical offerings in the Peace offerings: Leviticus 3: 7:37-38; 8:15

XV. Let us close with a look at the removal of various aspects of the Barrier between man and God.

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1. Sin—Personal sins. And there are two doctrines that describe the removal of this barrier:

First is Unlimited Atonement: 1 Timothy 2:6; 4:10; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and 19; Titus 2:11; Hebrews 2:9; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:2.

Second is *Redemption*: John 8:31-36; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14.

So under the Doctrine of Reconciliation two doctrines are involved: *The Doctrine of redemption and The Doctrine of Unlimited Atonement*.

2. Penalty of Sin—This part of the barrier is removed by Expiation. Colossians 2:14; Psalm 22:1-6; The Penalty of sin is paid for by the cross-work of Jesus Christ.
3. The Problem of our Physical Birth—Separates us from God. This is removed by Regeneration. John 1:1-18; 1 Peter 1:23; Titus 2:5.
4. The Problem of God's Perfect Righteousness—This is removed by Propitiation. Romans 3:22-26 and 1 John 2:1-2 and Imputation of +R (Perfect Righteousness) Romans 6:17-21; 4:4-6 and 9-10.
5. The Problem of the Law—Removed by the cross work of Jesus Christ. Ephesians 2:15 and Colossians 2:14.

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**Colossians 1:20 and (along with making Him preeminent; God the Father) through Him (Jesus Christ) to reconcile all things (created by Him) to Himself, (God the Father; why was God reconciled by Jesus Christ) having made peace through the blood of His (Jesus Christ) cross.**

This is probably the least correctly understood phrase in all of the Bible. One must fully understand the Old Testament sacrifices and New Testament Greek. But the point is our peace through His Spiritual death on the cross.