

Our Ministry Of Reconciliation

Hope Chapel Honolulu

2Corinthians 5:10-21

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
(2Corinthians 5:17-19, ESV)

Introduction

When preparing to talk about reconciliation this week, I found myself wondering which of two passages—Romans 5:1-11 and 2Corinthians 5:1-21—I should focus upon. While I believe that both passages speak clearly of this same subject, the Romans passage, particularly vv. 10-11, points to an inner and personal witness of God’s work of reconciliation while the 2Corinthians passage points to an external and relational witness to God’s work of reconciliation. It is not that these are two different works of reconciliation. God’s work of reconciliation begins in our heart and soul, and then is evident in our words, works and relationships with God, self, neighbor and enemy.

1. The what and why of our reconciliation with God. (2Corinthians 5:10-13)

- a) We should not be satisfied with our own reconciliation, but desire the same for others.
- b) Paul’s second and third letters to the Church at Corinth were for their reconciliation.

2. The what and why of having become a new creation. (2Corinthians 5:14-19)

- a) Compelled by Christ’s love to love God and to love neighbor and enemy as one’s self.
- b) We have become new creations, not for ourselves, but for this work of reconciliation.

3. What kind of ambassador for Christ are you? (2Corinthians 5:20-21)

- a) As God in Christ reconciled us, Christ in you would reconcile the world to Himself.
- b) What does it mean to become “the righteousness of God” in Christ?

Conclusion

When the Scriptures tell us that we have become “ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us” what does that tell you about our responsibility to become witnesses of God’s grace and truth in our own lives and relationships? We have become new creations in Christ and have been entrusted with both “the ministry of reconciliation” and “the word of reconciliation.” What new, deepened or reconciled relationships would God work through your words and works?

For our prayerful study, discovery and application:

1. What does it mean for Christ to have committed to us “the ministry of reconciliation”?
2. What does it mean for Christ to have committed to us “the message of reconciliation”?
3. What were you reminded of, or what did you learn anew, about having become a new creation?

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