

**Col 1:19-23** – For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated & enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, & blameless, & above reproach in His sight -- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded & steadfast, & are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

#### 1. Define the word *reconciliation*.

RECONCILE, RECONCILIATION – (apo: **from**; katallasso (kat-al-las'-so): **to change** mutually. “To change from one condition to another,” so as to remove all enmity & leave no impediment to unity & peace.” **TO MAKE FRIENDS AGAIN!**

**This implies that each one of us WAS  
at one time at peace with God as His friend.**

These verses state the gospel or good news against the backdrop of some very bad news.

The humanist, David Thoreau, was asked one time if he had made peace with God, & in typical humanist fashion, he replied, “I did not know we had ever quarreled.”

Man in his pride, insists that God recognize man’s personal righteousness. However....

**Isaiah 64:6** – But we are all like an unclean thing, & **all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags**; we all fade as a leaf, & our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

The good news is that God had a plan to rescue us from that condition, but His plan will only be effective with those who will recognize their true spiritual condition before Him (alienated, enemies – **21**).

2. Name five characteristics of those who are “dead in trespasses & sins” (Eph 2:1, 12).

**Eph 2:11-12** – Therefore remember that you, once **Gentiles** in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- 12 that at that time you were...

**Adam Clarke**

- 1) **Without Christ** – They had no knowledge of the Christ or Messiah, & no title to the blessings which were to proceed from him.
- 2) **Being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel** – cut off from the commonwealth (community) of Israel – from the civil & religious privileges of the Jewish people.
- 3) **And strangers from the covenants of promise** – Having no part in the promise of the covenant made with Abraham...and no part in that of the covenant made at Horeb with the Israelites, when a holy law was given them, & God condescended to dwell among them, & to lead them to the Promised Land.
- 4) **Having no hope** – Either of the pardon of sin or of the resurrection of the body, nor indeed of the immortality of the soul.
- 5) **And without God in the world** – They had many gods..., but in no Gentile nation was the true God known.

3. In the matter of *reconciliation*, who is reconciled to whom? Why?

Man is reconciled to God.

Why? God is not the One who shattered the relationship.

The gospel is the message of God’s desire to make things right with the people who made things wrong in the first place.

Our reconciliation to God begins with our recognition that we are alienated from Him – The theme of which God made us aware through the gospel.

4. Paul spoke of himself & others as “ambassadors for Christ”. Who were they? What was their principle work (2 Cor 5:20)?

**2 Cor 5:20** – Now then, we are **ambassadors** [to act as a representative] for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

The apostles of Christ – Their principle work was to sound forth the message that God wants men to be reconciled to Him.

5. What do the following passages add to our understanding of *reconciliation*?

- a. Romans 5:10-11 –

**Rom 5:10-11** –

**10** For if when 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.

If God took such an extreme action or measure, as the giving of His Son's life, to reconcile us to Himself while we were His enemies, how much more will He do to save us through the life of His Son.

**11** And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Reconciliation to God through His Son ought to cause in us great rejoicing!

b. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 –

2 Cor 5:17-21 –

**17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Being reconciled to God makes us an entirely new creation (the righteousness of God, vs **21**), serving in a new realm for new purposes.

**18** Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, & has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

**19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, & has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Man didn't seek to restore friendship with God, God set out to be reconciled with us by means of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Sacrifice of Christ – trespasses not imputed – reconciliation.

The gospel is *“the a ministry of reconciliation”* **given** to the apostles

The gospel is *“the word of reconciliation”* **committed** to the apostles

**20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

As new creatures, reconciled to God, He can use us [**as He used the apostles**] to plead with others to be reconciled to Him.

**21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Jesus, being our sin sacrifice, made us righteous in God's sight, but only after we believed & obeyed this “word of reconciliation” (**Acts 18:8; 1 Cor 6:11**)

c. Ephesians 2:14-18 –

**Eph 2:14-18** – For He Himself is our **peace**, who has made both one, & has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making **peace**, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came & preached **peace** to you who were afar off & to those who were near. 18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

God created a condition of peace between Jew & Gentile, by abolishing the Law of Moses—at the crucifixion of Christ— & by reconciling both nations into 1 body.

d. Colossians 1:20-22 –

**Col 1:20-22** –

**20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

It is God's will to reconcile all things to Himself through Christ.

**21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

Even those who is very far away from God can be reconciled back to Him.

**22** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight –

The sacrifice of Christ has the power to take a person who is cut off from God as an enemy, & to make him holy, blameless & above reproach in God presence.