

Reconciled in Christ
Colossians 1:21-23
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Big Idea | We have been reconciled to God through Christ and must continue in the faith.

1) Remember our identity in Christ (vv. 21-22)

[21] And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [22] he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him

Colossians 1:21-22 (ESV)

A) Apart from Christ, we are hopeless enemies of God (v. 21)

- Alienated

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:12 (ESV)

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

Ephesians 4:18 (ESV)

- Hostile in mind

[14] But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. [15] For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, [16] to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (ESV)

- Doing evil deeds

B) In Christ, we have been reconciled to God. (v. 22)

he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him

Colossians 1:22 (ESV)

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near...

Ephesians 2:13 (ESV)

- He reconciled us in his body of flesh by his death

... making peace by the blood of his cross.
Colossians 1:20 (ESV)

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8(ESV)

- He reconciled us to make us holy
- He reconciled us to make us blameless
- He reconciled us to make us above reproach before God

2) Continue in the faith (v. 23)

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
Colossians 1:23 (ESV)

A. Pursue stable and steadfast faith

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.
Colossians 1:28 (ESV)

B. Abide in the hope of the gospel

[11] And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. [12] But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, [13] waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. [14] For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.
Hebrews 10:11–14 (ESV)

C. Proclaim the gospel

[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. [20] Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:18–21 (ESV)