

Sermon Study Guide

Reconciliation: God's Plan to Restore What Was Broken

Key Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:18

"Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

Introduction

The Bible is the story of God restoring a broken relationship with humanity. Sin separated us from God, but through Jesus Christ, God made a way for us to be reconciled to Him. Reconciliation is not only a gift we receive; it is also a ministry we are called to share with others.

Opening Question

When you hear the word "reconciliation," what comes to mind? Have you ever experienced a restored relationship that once seemed broken?

Point 1: Reconciliation Begins With God

Key Scriptures

Genesis 3:9

"Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, 'Where are you?'"

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Understanding the Truth

After Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God. Yet God pursued them. Throughout Scripture, God is always the One taking the first step toward restoration.

God did not wait for us to become perfect before loving us. He pursued us while we were still lost.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people often hide from God when they feel guilty?

2. How does it change your perspective to know that God pursues you first?
3. Can you recall a time when you clearly experienced God's pursuit in your life?

Application

Spend time this week thanking God for His grace and initiative in your salvation.

Point 2: Reconciliation Is Only Possible Through Christ

Key Scriptures

1 Timothy 2:5

"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

Colossians 1:20

"Having made peace through the blood of His cross."

Understanding the Truth

Sin created a separation between humanity and God that we could never bridge ourselves. Jesus became

the mediator who restored peace between God and humanity.

The cross is the ultimate demonstration of God's desire to restore what was broken.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to understand that reconciliation comes through Christ alone?
2. How does the cross demonstrate both God's justice and God's love?
3. What are some ways people attempt to earn God's favor apart from Christ?

Application

Reflect on what Christ accomplished on the cross and thank Him for making reconciliation possible.

Point 3: Reconciliation Creates a New Relationship

Key Scriptures

Romans 8:15

"You received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'"

1 John 3:1

"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!"

Understanding the Truth

God does more than forgive us. He adopts us into His family. Through Christ, we move from enemies to children, from strangers to heirs.

Reconciliation changes our identity.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you personally to be called a child of God?
2. How should our identity in Christ impact our daily lives?
3. What areas of your life still need to be shaped by this truth?

Application

Write down three ways your life should look different because you belong to God's family.

Point 4: Reconciled People Become Reconcilers

Key Scriptures

Matthew 5:9

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

2 Corinthians 5:20

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ."

Understanding the Truth

God calls every believer to participate in the ministry of reconciliation. We are representatives of Christ in our homes, workplaces, communities, and churches.

People should see God's grace through the way we treat others.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

2. Who has helped reconcile you to God or encouraged your faith journey?
3. Is there a relationship in your life that needs healing or forgiveness?

Application

Ask God to reveal one person you can encourage, forgive, or help restore this week.

Point 5: Reconciliation Reveals the Heart of God

Key Scriptures

John 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

2 Peter 3:9

"Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Understanding the Truth

The entire Bible reveals God's desire to restore people to Himself. The cross shows us God's heart. His mission is redemption, restoration, and reconciliation.

Every act of forgiveness reflects God's character.

Discussion Questions

1. What do these scriptures teach us about God's heart toward people?
2. Why is forgiveness often difficult?
3. How can reconciliation become a powerful witness to unbelievers?

Application

Pray for someone who needs to experience God's restoring love.

Personal Reflection

Take a few moments to honestly answer these questions:

- Is there an area of my relationship with God that needs restoration?
- Is there someone I need to forgive?
- Is there someone from whom I need to seek forgiveness?
- How can I become a better ambassador of reconciliation?
- What step is God calling me to take this week?

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through Jesus Christ. Thank You for pursuing us when we were lost and making a way for us to be restored. Help us live as Your children and Your ambassadors. Give us hearts that forgive, restore, and love others as You have loved us. Use us to bring the message of reconciliation to a world that desperately needs Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.