

Introduction: Happy New Year!!

Hopefully you all have your communion cup and bread? Raise your hand if you need one and we'll bring it to you.

As we shared a few times through our Christmas series, Christmas and Easter are joined at the hip. Without Christmas, there is no Easter. Without Jesus at Christmas there is no cross at Easter and no cross means no forgiveness, no reconciliation, no eternity with God in heaven.

As we prepare our hearts for communion, I want to take you to Colossians 1, a place where Christmas and Easter integrate together in a beautiful collision.

[Transition] - Turn with me to Colossians 1. Read verses 19-22.

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation..."

The text literally says God took great delight in the reality that all his divinity was fully present in Jesus. This means the fully human Jesus possessed the full or complete nature of the Godhead. Everything God is, Jesus is. Jesus was not a human elevated to deity. God humbly took on

human form. And this text teaches us God was pleased to take human form in Jesus.¹

Because the fullness of God was in Christ...**God made reconciliation possible through Christ**

Then as fully man, and fully God, he submitted himself to death on the cross. And his shed blood on the cross made reconciliation of all people and all things possible. Because he was fully human, he was qualified to die in your place. Because he was fully God, he was able to wash away all sin, for all humankind, for all time.

Sin impacted the whole of creation in some way or another. But, Jesus' death made reconciliation of the whole of creation possible.

Before you were estranged from God, and you literally behaved like an enemy of God because of your sin. Your sin riddled mind, gave way to your sin riddled life. And your sin created a chasm between your heart and the heart of God. You were continuously and persistently out of harmony with God.²

But Jesus shed blood paid the penalty for your sin. And in so doing, he makes it possible for a state of peace to exist between God and you and even between God and all of creation. The peace brings order and harmony into what is otherwise chaotic and distorted.³ It is the restoring of harmony to all things, the many dimensions of existence ("things on earth or things in heaven")⁴

¹ Richard R. Melick, [Philippians, Colossians, Philemon](#), vol. 32, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 224.

² Richard R. Melick, [Philippians, Colossians, Philemon](#), vol. 32, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 230.

³ Richard R. Melick, [Philippians, Colossians, Philemon](#), vol. 32, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 227.

⁴ Richard R. Melick, [Philippians, Colossians, Philemon](#), vol. 32, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 227–228.

It's interesting to know the form of the verb in the phrase, *"has reconciled you"* in verse 22, indicates the action of reconciliation happened to the subject, which is you and me. This reconciliation is made possible for us solely because of Jesus. You didn't earn it. You didn't qualify for it. Your reconciliation was made possible by Jesus and Jesus alone.

[**Transition**] - Now, notice the results of this reconciliation in verse 22. *"...He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation..."*

The results of reconciliation

*****Andrew...add each of these to same slide so all are visible**

22 - Because of Jesus' death, God now sees you as:

- Holy - no sin
- Blemish free - No defects, no faults
- Accusation free - blameless and above reproach

Lead in taking the Elements -

This text is teaching us plain and simple...Reconciliation based exclusively on the body and the blood of Jesus:

The text says: Reconciled you through the death of Christ's physical body.

- Lead in taking of the Bread

Making peace through Christ's blood shed on the cross.

-Lead in taking the Cup

[**Transition**] - Now, one final piece I want to show you. Look at verse 23

"If you continue" is not trying to teach that you can lose your salvation. Many different verses teach otherwise. Instead, it is best translated, "Assuming or knowing that you will continue...."⁵

⁵ Richard R. Melick, [Philippians, Colossians, Philemon](#), vol. 32, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 233.

***** same here Andrew...list this title and add each item to same slide so all are visible together.**

How to live into your reconciliation: Paul gives us three encouragements

1. Continue in your faith - "remain, stay the course, continue" trusting in Jesus
2. Remain established and firm in your faith - Importance of the word form = "describe a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present. The emphasis of the perfect is not the past action so much as it is as such but the present "state of affairs" resulting from the past action."⁶
3. Remain unmoved from the hope held out in the Gospel - no shifting or loosening your hope the gospel provides.

⁶ Michael S. Heiser and Vincent M. Setterholm, [Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology](#) (Lexham Press, 2013; 2013).