

Called to Reconcile

A Theology of Reconciliation

- **Recap:** Last week we talked about love's calling. We discussed how it is the Father himself who calls us (1 Peter 1:9-10), and that He calls all of us (Acts 17:30-31, John 3:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-5). He doesn't just call the A-listers or the best of the best. He calls the nobodies, the exploited, overlooked, and abused (1 Corinthians 1:26-31). We also saw that the way He calls us is through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, Romans 1:16), and that what he calls us into is the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21). Not only does He want us to be ministers of reconciliation, but He backs up the gospel with the demonstration of power (1 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Corinthians 2:3-5, Mark 16:15-20)!
- This week I want to continue looking into what it means to be called into the ministry of reconciliation ...
 - Personal Experience.

1. Reconcile - *katallaso* - to remove all separation, feuding or hostility leaving no obstacles in the way of unity, peace or friendship.

A. The Father so deeply desired to remove the separation, feuding and hostility that stood between our unity, peace and friendship, that He sent Jesus to reconcile all things back to Himself.

B. For it was the good pleasure of the Father that in him should all the fullness dwell; and through him reconcile all things unto himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things upon the earth, or things in the heavens. - Colossians 1:19-20 ASV

i. The Father's reconciliation is holistic in nature.

- He desires for all things, in heaven and on earth, to be brought back into communion with Himself and with one another.
- Why do all things need to be reconciled? Wasn't our relationship with the Father the only thing fractured when Adam sinned? No.

2. It is important to understand that when Adam sinned He didn't just bring separation, feuding and hostility between God and mankind. He brought separation, feuding and hostility between mankind and mankind itself.

A. “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.”” - Genesis 3:8-12 NKJV

- i. The first result of sin was blaming God. The second result of sin was blaming someone else.
 - Adam, before the fall, was in perfect unity and oneness with both God and Eve. Now after the fall he was in discord and separated from not only God, but Eve as well.
 - So, the dysfunction we experience in our families is a result of Adam’s sin. Racism is a result of Adam’s sin. The discord we feel in relationships is a result of Adam’s sin. The disgust we feel towards people of a different political party ... you guessed it ... a result of Adam’s sin.

B. But here is the good news:

i. Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right. - Romans 5:18-19 MSG

- The same way that Adam’s sin damaged our unity, peace and friendship with one another, the blood of Jesus Christ reconciled, or removed everything that separated us from our unity, peace and friendship with one another!

ii. If we stop at reconciliation with God through the cross, and don’t progress into reconciliation with one another we aren’t experiencing the holistic nature of its power!

- Remember what Colossians 1:20 says that Jesus reconciled ALL THINGS and brought peace through the blood of His cross.

- A gospel that can reconcile your soul but not your family isn't a powerful gospel.
 - A gospel that can heal a lonely heart, but not the toxic relationships that made the heart lonely in the first place isn't a powerful gospel.
 - A gospel that can restore the Heavenly Father to His earthly children, but not earthly fathers to their own children isn't a powerful gospel.
- iii. A powerful gospel reconciles ALL THINGS.
3. If the church doesn't start to preach and live a gospel of reconciliation that goes beyond the individual and into the whole body of Christ we will never see the revival so many of us talk about.

A. We have to understand that the most beautiful thing about God's desire to reconcile the world back to Himself is that He longs to do so through the medium of our reconciliation to one another.

- i. **“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” - John 17:20-23 NKJV**

- **The world being reconciled to the Father through belief in the deity of Jesus hangs on this one thing: our oneness.**

B. This is confirmed through Psalm 133 NLT:

- i. **How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron's head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting. - Psalm 133 NLT**

- The first place the Bible mentions eternal life is in direct conjunction with the unity of God's chosen people.

- C. It is my sincere belief that one of the reasons we haven't seen sustained revival is because we cannot effectively preach reconciliation with God when we haven't dedicated ourselves to figuring out reconciliation with one another.
- 4. There is power in our oneness, so how can we practically be reconciled to one another?
 - A. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. - Ephesians 4:2-4**
 - i. Be gentle.**
 - ii. Be patient.**
 - iii. Make allowance for faults.**
 - iv. Make every effort to stay united and maintain peace in the Spirit.**