

“Ministers of Reconciliation”
(2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

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**The only way reconciliation can take place
is for someone to be willing to
take the initiative to reconcile!**

⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us,
in that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

**Our Mission...MSBC exists to glorify God by
exalting the Savior, evangelizing the lost, and
edifying the saints!**

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,

not counting their trespasses against them, and
He has committed to us the word of
reconciliation.²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors
for Christ, as though God were making an appeal
through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be
reconciled to God.²¹ He made Him who knew no
sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might
become the righteousness of God in Him.

1. The Motive for Reconciliation! (vs. 14-15)

- **“The love of Christ”, His love for us!**
- **Beautifully seen in Christ’s sacrificial, substitutionary, all-atoning death.**

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

**“Love of Christ controls us” - greek word for
control that describes a pressure
so strong that it produces action!**

³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or
famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as
it is written,
“FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO
DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE
SLAUGHTERED.” ³⁷But in all

these things we overwhelmingly conquer through
Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor things present, nor things to
come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor
any other created thing, will be able to separate
us from the love of God, which is in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

**Have you gotten over God's love for you?
You can tell by asking yourself, "In what ways is
the love of Christ controlling and
compelling me into action?"**

2. The Ministry of Reconciliation! (vs. 18-19, 21)

- In Christ, believers are new creations (vs. 17), but also “In Christ”, God is reconciling the world to Himself (vs. 18).**
- Reconciliation with God only happens “In Christ” (1 Timothy 2:5; Acts 4:12).**

“Reconcile” means “to change thoroughly.”

**God is the Reconciler and
sinners must respond to the
gospel to be reconciled in Christ!**

How was Jesus made sin?

**—only in the sense that God treated Jesus
“as if” He had committed every sin that I
ever committed, as well as everyone else’s.**

**God punished Jesus on the cross
for our sins even though Jesus
didn't commit a single sin!**

**“The Great Exchange” happened at the cross
when God treated Jesus as
I deserved to be treated
and God treated me the way
Jesus deserved to be treated!**

**Imputation is a banking term that means
“to put to one’s account.” When Jesus died
on the cross, all our sins were
imputed to Him, put on His account.**

3. The Messengers of Reconciliation! (vs. 20)

- Ambassador - one who represents his country in another country. We are citizens of heaven representing Christ on earth (Philippians 3:20).**
- As ambassadors for Christ, we are both messengers for and representatives of Him!**

What's our message to the world from heaven?
**“We beg and plead with you on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God!” (vs. 20)**



**I'm Here. I Need
A Haircut.**

Sermon in a Sentence:

**As a believer, you are a minister of
reconciliation!**

Application:

1. Pray and ask God to show you any broken relationships in your life. Once He shows you, pray again for grace and humility to initiate reconciliation.
2. *How is the love of Christ toward you motivating you into action? Have you become indifferent concerning God's love demonstrated toward you? If so, read Isaiah Chapter 53 and John Chapters 18 and 19.*
3. Faith@Home: Discuss with a friend or as a family who the Mike's and Julie's are in your life. Make a plan this week to be intentional in evangelizing the lost and being a minister of reconciliation. Share your plan and then get together in one week and share the results. Read 2 Corinthians 5:10-21 for additional motivation to share Christ!
4. *Make a list of four people you know who need to be reconciled to God. Begin praying daily for their salvation and the opportunity to share Jesus with them.*