

Building Real Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A new poll asked Americans about changes in the US political climate, including whether divisions have worsened and what they expect for the future. Here were their responses:

- ***66 percent believe political divisions have gotten worse since the beginning of 2021.***
- ***62 percent expect political divisions to get even worse in the future.***
- ***66 percent say political violence has increased since the start of 2021.***
- ***60 percent expect such violence to increase in the next few years.***

Here's the most sobering part of the report:

- ***43 percent believe a civil war is at least somewhat likely in the next decade.***
- ***Only 35 percent say it is not likely;***
- ***22 percent are unsure.***

Matthew 12:25 (ESV) — Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.

I've titled today's message, "Building Real Reconciliation"

But what is reconciliation?

To "reconcile" means to

- ***Put people back on friendly terms***
- ***End conflict***

Reconciliation means...

To reestablish proper friendly interpersonal relations after these have been disrupted or broken.

Is reconciliation even possible?

ONE THING

We must RETURN to the SOURCE of our SEPARATION before we can experience real RECONCILIATION.

1. The World FABRICATES real Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:16 (ESV) From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

Where it states, "We regard no one according to the flesh..." , ...

It means that we no longer focus on outward appearances...

If someone's appearance is acceptable to me then I accept them, but if it is unacceptable to me then I view them with disdain...

This is simply the way humans view one another...

1 Samuel 16:7b (ESV) ... For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Even among people professing to be Christians we find constant division

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV) I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV) Now the works of the flesh are evident: ... enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, ... and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

These have always been problems within the Church...

Romans 16:17 (ESV) — I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.

As a result of the human attempts to unite people around things other than God we create an imitation of unity...

The three basic stages the world forms their imitation of reconciliation...

- ***ALIENATION – You DON'T follow***
- ***INTIMIDATION – You WILL follow***
- ***DOMINATION – You MUST follow***

Every world power since the dawn of time has followed the divide and conquer mindset...

Nimrod in Genesis 10-11

→ Pic - World Empires

The Akkadians	2350 BC
The Hittites	1600 BC
The Assyrians	880 BC
The Babylonians	612 BC
The Persians	550 BC
The Greeks	330 BC
The Romans	200 BC

Jude 19 (ESV) — It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

How do we move from a world of chaos and division to a world where people are truly walking in unity and harmony?

We must return to the source of our separation before we can experience real reconciliation.

1. The World FABRICATES real Reconciliation.

2. The Father INITIATES real Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18 (ESV) All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18a (ESV) All this is from God

The Bible never tells lost mankind to make peace with God!

2 Corinthians 5:19a (ESV) That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them

Salvation is not you accepting Christ,

Salvation is God accepting you!

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

John 3:17 (ESV) — For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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1. The World FABRICATES real Reconciliation.

2. The Father INITIATES real Reconciliation.

3. The Lord Jesus INAGURATES real Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18b (ESV) All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:13–16 (ESV) — 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

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2. The Father INITIATES real Reconciliation.

3. The Lord Jesus INAGURATES real Reconciliation.

4. The Spirit ACTIVTES real Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18c (ESV) All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

We have this ministry of reconciliation, but ONLY through the Holy Spirit's power can we fulfill this ministry!

You see, when you give your life to Christ you become brand new!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

We become a new SPECIES!

As a result,

2 Corinthians 5:16 (ESV) From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

In Christ, we no longer regard...

- **A black man as black or a white man as white**
- **A rich man as rich or a poor man as poor**
- **A tall man as tall or a short man as short**
- **An intelligent man as intelligent or an ignorant man as ignorant**

- **A handicap man in his handicap or a healthy man as healthy**

When the Lord rejected Jesse's eldest son, Eliab in favor for his youngest son, David, the Lord said,

"Man looks on the outside, but God looks at the heart."

Galatians 3:28 (ESV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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2. The Father INITIATES real Reconciliation.

3. The Lord Jesus INAGURATES real Reconciliation.

4. The Spirit ACTIVTES real Reconciliation.

5. The Church INCORPORATES real Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (ESV) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (ESV) For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those

**who live might no longer live for themselves but for him
who for their sake died and was raised.**

**As we who are reconciled to God through Jesus allow the
Holy Spirit to unify us, we will have a tremendous impact
on the lost around us!**

**John 17:20–21 (ESV) — I do not ask for these only, but also
for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that
they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in
you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may
believe that you have sent me.**

**As for our nation, I still believe the Church united by the
Spirit, is the hope for America!**

→ Samuel Adams

A signer of the Declaration of Independence...

**"Neither the wisest constitution nor the wisest
laws will secure the liberty and happiness of a
people whose manners are universally corrupt. He
therefore is the truest friend of the liberty of his
country who tries most to promote its virtue."**

— Samuel Adams

**We must return to the source of our separation before
we can experience real reconciliation.**

**Proverbs 14:34 (ESV) — Righteousness exalts a nation, but
sin is a reproach to any people.**

**Building Real Reconciliation
1 Corinthians 5:16-21**

We must _____ to the _____ of our _____
before we can experience real _____.

1. The World _____ real Reconciliation.

➤ _____ – You _____ follow

➤ _____ – You _____ follow

➤ _____ – You _____ follow

2. The Father _____ real Reconciliation.

3. The Lord Jesus _____ real Reconciliation.

4. The Spirit _____ real Reconciliation.

5. The Church _____ real Reconciliation.