

Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.

Trivia-Google Search Suggestions III. Fill In The Blank. "Reunited _____"

- Peaches And Herb. Song About Joy Of A Restored Relationship Between Man And Woman.
- Text Switches Gears From Who Jesus Is To What He Has Done: Reunited.

>>> A. Biblical Word = Reconciled. Repair What Is Broken, Out Of Order, Not Right.

- Broken Marriage. Out Of Sorts Bank Account.

>>> B. Today: 5 Truths About Biblical Reconciliation.

Colossians 1:19-23. For in him (Jesus) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. ²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you

continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Truth #1: Reconciliation Is Only Through The Cross Of Jesus.

>>> A. Jesus' Special And Sacrificial Death Is The Basis For Making Things Right.

- Verse 20. "Making Peace (Reconciling) By The Blood (Death) Of His Cross."
- Verse 22. "He Has Now Reconciled In His Body Of Flesh By His Death."

>>> B. Bible Strongly Emphasizes The Death Of Jesus. Disproportionate Portions In The Biographies Of Jesus, Emphasis Of Apostles. (Repeatedly: Death, Blood, Cross.)

- Gospel = Message Of The Cross.
- Preaching = The Offense Of The Cross. Foolishness Of The Cross.
- Repeated Lord's Supper = Memorializes The Cross.

- Early Christians: Greeted Each Other By Making Cross On Foreheads.

>>> C. In The Bible, The Cross Of Jesus Is The Turning Point Of History. Foundation Of Ultimate Reconciliation; Making Things Right.

Hebrews 9:22. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

1 Peter 1:18. knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

Truth #1: Reconciliation Is Only Through The Cross Of Jesus.

>>> D. Purpose #1: Reflect Worthily On Death Of Jesus For Us:

Memorial Day III. Celebrate Freedom Without Actively Remembering Source Of Freedom

Revelation 5:1-6a. Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?”³ And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it,⁴ and I began to

weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.⁵ And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain,

- Imagine Life Without The Cross? Loaded With Guilt, Fearful In Prayer, Hopeless In Outlook.

Truth #1: Reconciliation Is Only Through The Cross Of Jesus.

>>> D. Purpose #1: Reflect Worthily On Death Of Jesus For Us:

>>> E. Purpose #2: Persevere In Truth Of Cross. (Mocked, Rejected, Hated, Dismissed, Etc.)

- The Event Of The Cross Is Denied By Islam.
- The Impact Of The Cross Is Rejected By Hinduism. (Not Atoning, Redeeming, Etc.)

Gandhi Quote. My reason was not ready to believe literally that Jesus by his death and by his blood redeemed the sins of the world.....I could accept Jesus as a martyr, an embodiment of sacrifice, and a divine teacher..... His death on the Cross was a great example to the world, but that there was anything like virtue in it, my heart could not accept.

- The Work Of The Cross Is Minimized By Liberal Christianity. (Not Substitute, Saving, Virtuous.)
- The Cross Of Jesus Shows Us: The Magnitude Of Our Sins, The Degree Of Our Helplessness.
It Is An Affront To Our Pride.

Old Rugged Cross Lyrics: On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suffering and shame; And I love that old cross where the dearest and best, For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see, For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share.

Truth #1: Reconciliation Is Only Through The Cross Of Jesus.

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Truth # 2: Reconciliation Is All-Encompassing Of The Entire Cosmos.

>>> A. Everything That Is Not Right, Broken, Or Out Of Order Will Be Made Right.

- Verse 20. " Reconcile To Himself All Things Whether On Earth Or In Heaven."

>>> B. Everything Is Broken, Corrupted On So Many Levels:

- Earthly Brokenness: Mankind And Creation.
- Heavenly (Spiritual Realm) Brokenness: Satan, Demons, Spiritual Warfare.

>>> C. Jesus Will Ultimately Restore All That Is Broken:

- Spiritually Broken: Relationship With God.
- Relationally Broken: Human Relationships.

- Physically Broken: Physical Bodies.
- Emotionally Broken: Depression, Anxiety, Bitterness, Etc.
- Creationally Broken: World Of Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Tsunamis, Etc.

>>> D. Restoration, Reconciliation Of All Things Is The Repeated Promise Of: The Old Testament, New Testament, Revelation 21-22.

>>> E. Explain Wrong Teaching Of "Universal" Salvation. (Not Consistent With The Rest Of Scripture And Tenor Of Scripture.)

Completely Restored Body From Cancer Illustration. Cancer Is Removed. Eliminates The Destructive Cancer While Healing The Whole Body.

Computer Virus Ill. Harmful, Corrupted Parts Removed Or Place In Vault. No More Harm.

Truth # 2: Reconciliation Is All-Encompassing Of The Entire Cosmos.

>>> F. The Point Being: Not Just About Forgiveness But Also Brokenness In World And Self.

Truth # 3: Reconciliation Is Needed By Everyone.

>>> A. Common Misconception: Bad People Out There Need To Get Right With God. They Need To Make Their Peace With God.

- Criminals. Grossly Immoral. Meanest, Nastiest People.

>>> B. Two Faulty Premises Need To Be Addressed:

- Faulty Premise #1: Many Or Most People Are Already Okay With God.

Egg Inspection Illustration. Under The Light Its Many Flaws Are Exposed!

- Faulty Premise #2: My Personal Sins Are Not That Bad. Serious. How Could God Be Upset At That?

Licking Ice Cream Fad Illustration. Personal View. No Big Deal. Health Inspector? Police? Victims? Why Not Lick Brussels Sprouts Or Kale?

Truth # 3: Reconciliation Is Needed By Everyone.

>>> C. Verse 21. Describes Mankind In Three Ways That Reveal The Need For Reconciliation For Everybody.

>>> D. "Alienated." Separated Despite Maybe "Feeling Close To God." Confident Of Standing. Blessings.

Clueless Spouse Illustration. Totally Fine. Empty House. Divorce Paper. Not Listening. Not Believing. Not Serious.

>>> E. "Hostile In Mind." Antagonism Toward God And His Truth. Many May Say: "No Way."

- Strong Denial Is Proof Of Antagonism Toward The Truth Of Enmity With God.
- Outwardly We May Be Positive Toward God But ,Outside Of Christ, In Our Minds And Hearts. Rebellious Toward His Law.

Colts And Jaguar's Ill. Outwardly Applaud. Profess Hope. Deep Down-Lose.

Romans 8:7-9. For the mind that is set on the flesh (unsaved) is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit (Christians), if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him....

Truth # 3: Reconciliation Is Needed By Everyone. (Alienated, Hostile In Mind.)

>>> F. "Doing Evil Deeds." Our Actions Spring From Our Hearts And Mind.

- “I May Have Done This But I'm Not A Bad Person.”

Matthew 15:19. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

- Tell A Lie? Deception In The Heart.
- Pornography Or Affair? Impurity In The Heart.
- Fight With Others? Anger And Selfishness In The Heart.
- Hoard And Withhold? Greed In The Heart.
- Gossip? Meanness In Heart.

Volcano III. Keep It In For A While. Still There. Waiting To Erupt In The Right Conditions.

Truth # 3: Reconciliation Is Needed By Everyone.

>>> G. Our Evil Deeds Reveal The Need For Divine Savior Everyday!

- Christian Goes From A Slave In Bondage To Sin To A Soldier In Battle Against Sin.

Truth #4: Reconciliation Is Totally Completed By Jesus.

>>> A. Misconception: We Contribute To Our Reconciliation To God By Our Good Works, Religious Activities, Or Some Other Means.

Good Defense Attorney At Parole Hearing III. He Or She Helps. Need Record Of Good Behavior.

- Widely Held View: Catholicism. Mormonism. Jehovah's Witnesses. Many Protestants.

>>> B. Incomplete Reconciliation Lead To: Spiritual Uncertainty About Standing With God.

- Have I Done Enough? What If I Fail In The Future? What About Past Failures?

Like Waiting For Collage Admittance Or Rejection Letter III. Did I Do Enough?

>>> C. Verse 22 Obliterates This Misconception And Spiritual Uncertainty.

"Now Reconciled By His Death." "Present You Holy, Blameless, And Above Reproach Before Him."

Truth #4: Reconciliation Is Totally Completed By Jesus.

>>> D. "Now Reconciled." Not Tomorrow. Distant Future. Meet Certain Criteria.

Trial Ongoing Or Over III. Difference In Being On Trial Hoping For Good Outcome Versus Having The Final Verdict Of "Not Guilty" And Being Truly Free.

>>> E. Verse 22. "Present You Holy, Blameless, Above Reproach." Not A Blemish, Lingering Sin, Probationary Period By Skeptical God.

Blemished Credit Record Illustration. One Error. Letter. Checking Score. Over 700. What? Removed All Bad Stuff Ever. I Still Committed Them But They Didn't Count Anymore In Any Future Creditor's Eyes.

Colossians 2:13-14. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

>>> F. Verse 22. "Above Reproach Before Him." Maybe For Not Before Anyone Else But Before Jesus The Judge = Clean Slate.

Truth #4: Reconciliation Is Totally Completed By Jesus.

Truth #5: Reconciliation Is Conditioned Upon Continuing Trust And Commitment To Christ.

>>> A. Seem Contradictory: Complete But Conditional? Complementary Truth.

- Verse 22. "Now Reconciled....." Verse 23 "If Indeed You Continue In The Faith"

Beatles, John Lennon Illustration. Called In To Christian Line, Asked For Prayer. Made Profession Of Faith. Short-Lived. Later In Last Recording: You Saved My Soul. About His Wife.

When I was lonely and scared, I nearly fell for a TV preacher In a hotel room in Tokyo, Oh, you truly saved me from that suicide

- His Single Response But Later Rejected. Ignored. True Reconciliation? No.

Truth #5: Reconciliation Is Conditioned Upon Continuing Trust And Commitment To Christ.

>>> B. Needed Reminder: False Confidence In Sinners' Prayer. Altar Call. Superficial Belief. Faith Without Works.

Storm Shelter In The Bahamas III. Certainty: Perfectly Safe. Perfectly Secure. Totally True. Get Uncomfortable And You Leave? Disbelieve Warnings And Leave? Don't Like Rules And Restriction And Leave To Pursue Easier Life?

>>> C. Two Problems:

- Problem #1: Some Were Walking Away From Christ Due To Sacrifices And Troubles.
- Problem #2. Some Were Depending On Self-Effort And Merit.

>>> D. Verse 22. "If You Continue In The Faith, Stable And Steadfast, Not Shifting From The Hope Of The Gospel You Heard..."

- Not: If You Quit All Sin, Overcome Alcohol Struggle, Cease From Your Anger, Defeat Lust.....

>>> E. Not Teaching: Losing Salvation Via Struggles.

- Leaving Salvation By Choice To Trust Self, Disregard Commitment To Christ, Prioritize World.

Committed Spouse Illustration. No Wrong, Struggle Can Diminish Their Commitment, But You Can Walk Away, Unrepentantly Pursue Another Relationship, Reject Marriage Commitment

>>> F. Theological Disagreement Regarding Any Who Walk Away. Any Who Follow The Ways Of The World?

- Genuine Or Counterfeit? Same Ultimate Conclusion: Only Ongoing Trust And Commitment To Jesus Results In Reconciliation And Salvation.
- Repeated Warnings: Galatians 5:1-4. Hebrews 2:1-3. Hebrews 10:26-30.

Truth #5: Reconciliation Is Conditioned Upon Continuing Trust And Commitment To Christ.

- The Sacrifice Of Jesus On The Cross Will Ultimately Result In Everything That Is Broken Being Made Right For Everyone That Continues To Trust And Commit To Him.
- That's Good News.