

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (FOR SEPT 19, 2021)

For Community Groups or Personal Study

Imagine two friends who have a fight or argument. The good relationship they once enjoyed is broken. The friends become estranged. This estrangement can only be reversed by reconciliation. To be reconciled is to be restored to friendship or harmony.

Our relationship with God was broken. Our sin has alienated us from Him. The Bible says that Christ reconciled us to God.

When Christ died on the cross, He satisfied God's judgment and made it possible for God's enemies, us, to find peace with Him. Our reconciliation to God involves the exercise of His grace and the forgiveness of our sin.

In this lesson, Paul tells the people of the church in Corinth, and us, of this great Biblical truth. It is the essence of the gospel. And he explains how we have been given the privilege of being ambassadors for Christ to spread the message of reconciliation.

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

SERMON PASSAGE: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[b] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of Reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What does Paul mean by what he says about Christ and our response to Him? vs 16.
2. What does it mean to be "in Christ"?
3. How does being a "new creation" make you feel about your past life?
4. How do you feel about your life now, as a "new creation?" Do you act and think differently?
5. What does God do in verse 18?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

6. What does reconciliation mean?
7. How is this different from forgiveness?
8. What does "according to the flesh mean"? (hint: worldly..?)
9. We are the divine recipients of reconciliation. What is our obligation? vs 18,19

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

10. If you were appointed as an ambassador, where would you like to be sent?
11. What do you think you should do now that you are a "new creation"?

Notes: _____

Spend time in silence, praying (even if just for a moment or two). Prayer is simply a conversation with God. Be honest. If you don't know how or what to pray admit that and ask God to help you pray. Ask God to give you confidence that He loves you and He will never leave you. Give thanks to God for answering your prayers.