

He Did It All For Himself

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NLT

17 “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

20 So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!”

21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”

Introduction: If Not for Him, then For Who?

There are fundamental and foundational truths that we must understand as believers in Christ, these are all essential doctrine that every believer should have knowledge of.

The Doctrine of the Finish Work of Christ- Mandates a study in **Christology** which is the study of Christ, His person, nature and work. What He accomplished, particularly through sinless obedience, sacrificial death, resurrection, and ascension to provide salvation for all of humanity.

This will also include the concept of **Incarnation** (God taking on human flesh). Also we must understand the concept and principle of **Hypostatic union**, which is the union of Jesus's two natures in one divine person.

It also mandates the study of **Pneumatology**- This word comes from two Greek words, **pneuma meaning breath, wind or spirit, and logos meaning word or study of**. The Holy Spirit is a distinct person of the Trinity, possessing a mind, emotions and will, much more than an impersonal force or cosmic energy. Holy Spirit is a deity who is fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

We must know that the shouting and running and dancing has nothing to do with the ultimate work of the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirits function involves the following.

- **The process of Regeneration: Making believers spiritually alive or born again.**

- **The process of Indwelling and Filling:** Permanently residing within believers at salvation and continually empowering us for daily life and obedience.
- **The process of Sanctification:** transforming believers to become more like Jesus Christ over time.
- **Spiritual Gifts:** Distributing unique abilities (charismata) to believers to build up the church and carry out its mission.
- **The process of Divine Inspiration:** Guiding human authors of the Bible to write the scriptures and to guide the understanding of those of us who are called to teach and preach the scriptures, according to biblical truth.

The Expository Breakdown of 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NLT

17 “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

1. What We Inherited through Personal Confession and Divine Connection:

- **God did something spiritually and eternally perfect and permanent.**

- **We must willingly and internally accept, embrace, and conform into this through the process of submission, application and time.**

18 And all of this is a gift from God,....

2. What He Gifted Us With:

- **When a gift is given, the recipient plays no part in what's purchased, nor the price of the gift.**

All the recipient does is receive the gift in grattuitive appreciation, or reject the gift with rejected insult, with no appreciation for its volitional value.

...who brought us back to himself through Christ.....

Why He Did What He Did:

Man become sinful, stubborn, and struggled and ultimately strayed away from God's original created intent. So God in His infinite wisdom, devised a plan to bring us back to Himself.

Isaiah 53:6 NLT

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the sins of us all.

Romans 1:18-25 KJV

18 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the un-corruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

....And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

What God is expecting of us:

The assignment is clear and there is no need for blind and human assumption. We as Leaders and Followers of Christ, are responsible for **reconciling** people back to God. Not just enrolling them into our church data base, where they spiritually die without being held accountable to discipleship, instead of membership.

We are a people who are consumed by the number of people we can get into these pews and chairs, and are not invested into changing their nature into the likeness of Christ. Not just promising them blessings when they have the Blessor as the ultimate Blessing.

19 For God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of **reconciliation**.

This flawed human idea of my sheep, my members, is a misrepresentation of stewardship truth. They're not our sheep, not our people, they are God's sheep and God's people. Not ours, and was never meant to be ours. This membership idea is not a Kingdom of God idea or mandate. We make church membership harder for people to become a part, and we burden them with more church work while

neglecting the work of the church. We burn people out with church duty, and they end up too tired to do real ministry, and they lose their desire for God's true agenda, which is bringing people back to their Father, who is God, and to His Kingdom way of life.

We're suppose to teach people to pray, not just relying on us to pray for, and over them. People today have these false assumptions, addictions and idolatrous allegiances to their Pastors who some of them, fleece them for their own egocentric passions. We compel them to buy our books and read them, when they have never took the time to study the book that God wrote.

Reconciliation is the Rule: To reconcile is a verb and an accounting terminology and process which means to restore properly.

It's the idea of making two opposing ideas to fit together with one truth, or accept at times what may be and unpleasant truth to our own desires.

It means to make people friendly again, not just with us but in this context, with God.

Reconciliation is the restoration of a broken relationship, bringing hostile or estranged people back into peace with God, which is what justification means. **Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God.**

This happened only through the sacrificial death and blood of Jesus Christ.

So instead of counting sins against people, God offers His forgiveness, peace, and restored fellowship through our faith in Christ. It means that the debt and the charges have been dropped, and no payment other than our true faith in Christ is mandated.

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

God's Apostolic Counsel of Ambassadors: An Ambassador, is the highest ranking diplomatic official who represents their home government, while living and working in a foreign country.

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers, we are God's Ambassadors in this world which is not our home anymore. We don't represent the governments of this world nor their kingdoms. We represent the Kingdom of the Most High God, called to work in this unfriendly and ungodly world. We speak for God and as God in this human realm. We are not independent contractors, neither are we free agents. We stick to the Kingdom of God plan, and we do not deviate from that plan. Our titles are not what we are suppose to be promoting, we're are called of God to testify of the things of God. But when there is no true experience with

God, there exist no expectation or expressions that comes from what God said and what He meant.

Those who follow us must follow us as we lead them to God, not to our conferences with registrations and offerings that break their coffers and expand ours. Jesus said in **Matthew 10:8, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely you should give.** The anointing I have, the wisdom I have, the knowledge I have, the authority I have, the gifts and abilities that I have, they cost me submission not tuition. He gave them to me freely, and besides, money of no amount could ever afford them. The Kingdom of God's government whom I serve, is responsible for taking care of and providing for me. I'm not saying that people should not care for us, but we are not to manipulate them into doing so. Teach them what the word of God says, and they will know how to care for us. And if the people do not receive us with honorable hospitality, and voluntary kindness and care, shake the dust from your feet, and give them back what they they didn't want you to have in the first place. God will judge them accordingly; same Matthew chapter 10 instructions.

21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

In simple an practical understanding, God did all of the work that He needed to be done for the people He has

always loved. Christ was the only offering required then and the only offering required now!!!

**BE RECONCILED TO GOD, AND BRING OTHERS TO
THIS PLACE OF JOYFUL RECONCILIATION.**