

Having the Heart of a Reconciler

INFLUENCERS Series

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*"For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." **Matthew 24:7 NKJV***

*"And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another." **Matthew 24:10 NKJV***

*"Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many." **Matthew 24:11 NKJV***

*"And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold." **Matthew 24:12 NKJV***

*"But he who endures to the end shall be saved." **Matthew 24:13 NKJV***

*"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." **Matthew 24:14 NKJV***

Jesus tells the church we are to be **SALT and **LIGHT**.**

One of the keys to being Salt and Light is **HAVING THE HEART OF A RECONCILER.**

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:14-19 NKJV

3 THINGS THAT HAVE TO HAPPEN in order to have a heart of reconciliation:

1. EXCHANGE YOUR OLD IDENTITY FOR A NEW IDENTITY.

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." **Galatians 2:20 NKJV**

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." **Galatians 3:28 NKJV**

2. ADOPT A KINGDOM CULTURE OVER THE EARTHLY CULTURE.

"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common ..." **Acts 2:44 NKJV**

4 STAGES PEOPLE LIVE IN CONCERNING OTHER CULTURES:

SEGREGATION: total and complete separation fueled by prejudice

TOLERATION: recognition that other cultures have rights accompanied by a silent unwillingness to move beyond that

INTEGRATION: willingness to mix together as a sign of acceptance but an unwillingness to move off of one's cultural stand

RECONCILIATION: a change of the inward heart condition that adopts a Kingdom mindset of doing life together

3. BUILD YOUR LIFE ON RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before your face." **Psalms 89:14 NKJV**

"Therefore, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken. I will test you with the measuring line of justice and the plumb line of righteousness ..." **Isaiah 28:16-17 NLT**

RIGHTEOUSNESS: LIVING RIGHT; conforming to the moral code of conduct prescribed by God's Word!

JUSTICE: DOING RIGHT; to correct the injustices of society, defending the poor and marginalized