

ZOOM STUDY: IMPORTANT BIBLICAL TERMS

RECONCILIATION

1.) What is your definition of reconciliation? What are some accounts of reconciliation in Scripture?

2.) What is the most drastic reconciliation program that has ever taken place? Who were the two parties? What was the point of contention? How did resolution and restoration come about? How is this unlike any reconciliation ever before accomplished or seen?

Genesis 3:6,14-15 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ... ¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Psalms 5:4-5 You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong.

Isaiah 53:5 He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him.

Colossians 1:19-23 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.

3.) In the previous Colossians 1 passage, Paul writes that God was "reconciling to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven." Exactly what things in on earth and in heaven did God reconcile?

4.) Paul says that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and he urges us to be reconciled to God. How does God's work of reconciling the world to himself enable us to be personally reconciled to God?

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

5.) What is Paul's line of reasoning in the following passage?

Romans 5:10-11 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

6.) What stood between Jew and Gentile? How was that barrier taken away?

Ephesians 2:14-17 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

7.) How does Jesus' work inspire us to be reconciled to one another? Consider the following...

- An estranged husband and wife.
- Church members who have mutual hurts and grievances from the past.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Colossians 3:12-15 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

Closing Prayer: *Christ Jesus, our peace, we are grateful for your reconciling us to God, our Creator. Help us, as far as it depends on us to remain reconciled to one another and all others. Amen.*