

RECONCILIATION

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

(Romans 5:10, 11)

According to the above verses, we were reconciled to God through the death of Jesus and saved by His life. Before the reconciliation, we were enemies of God, alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds (Colossians 1:21). The word “reconciliation” means “make peace, bring back into friendship.” Sin is what separated people from the holy God.

God, in His infinite wisdom, had a plan of salvation. At the appointed time in history, God sent Jesus to be born in our likeness (but without the sin nature; the Virgin Birth took care of that) as a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. A holy and just God had to punish sins and He accomplished that on the cross. The verdict was guilty, and the punishment was death. Jesus—the Lamb of God, died on behalf of you and me.

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

(John 1:29)

Complete Forgiveness Is Essential for Reconciliation

Forgiveness is in Jesus Christ. That is why we read in Romans 5:10 that we shall be saved by His life. When we, by faith, receive Jesus into our heart, we receive His resurrected life and in Him—Jesus—we have the forgiveness of sins. The New Testament believer doesn’t get forgiven; he is forgiven!

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,
which He lavished upon us.

(Ephesians 1:7, 8)

For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(Colossians 1:13, 14)

Those who die without Jesus—those who do not believe that Jesus is who He claims to be will die in their sins (John 8:24), because the forgiveness of sins does not apply to

them. As a result, they will stand before God on the Judgment Day not in the righteousness of Jesus, as we, the believers, but in their own righteousness, and their own righteousness will not be sufficient, since according to God:

There is none righteous, not even one.

(Romans 3:10)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

(Romans 3:23)

Our own righteousness (self-righteousness) will never gain us an entrance into God's kingdom. Eternal separation from God is in store for those who reject the righteousness of Jesus. The remedy for unbelievers is to repent of their sin of unbelief in Jesus, and believe in Him with all their heart, mind, and soul, and ask Jesus to give them His life and receive Him as their Lord and Savior.

The Reconciliation Is Received by Faith in Jesus

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

(Ephesians 2:8, 9)

We, the believers, are the ministers of reconciliation, the ambassadors of Christ. We are God's vessels, and He entreats all people through us to be reconciled to Him. Jesus has done it all. Our response is to believe it and act upon it in faith.

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(2 Corinthians 5:18–21)

The Reconciliation Is Through the Cross

Ephesians 2:16

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him,

and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,

yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

(Colossians 1:19–22)