**Reconciled**

**(to make peace, to bring together again, to restore)**

**Colossians 1:21-23  ESV**

**Paul Answers some probing questions about reconciliation:**

1. Why did we **need** reconciliation?                                               **v 21**

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds…”

1. We were **alienated** from God *(legally* *estranged, cut off, separated, excluded)*
2. We were **hostile** in our thinking *(resentful of His standards/moral code,  an*

*inner attitude of rebelliousness & hate of being told what to do)*

1. We were **doing** evil deeds *(hostile minds result in outward worthless/degrading*

*actions.  Indicates continuous actions that get more & more despicable)*

**2)** How did **Jesus** reconcile us? He took the initiative not us…  **v22a (20b)**

22He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death..  20..making peace by the blood of His cross …”

**3)** For what **purpose** did Jesus reconcile us?                                **v 22b**

      “…in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him”

**\***To **properly** present us as a gift to His Father as:

a. **Holy** (set apart from sin enslavement – set apart to/for God -- in ‘His’ sight)

b. **Blameless** (legally w/o blemish, justified/no record of wrong in ‘His’ sight –

    Doesn’t mean we are w/o faults -- We’re just now always fully ‘forgiven’!)

c. **Above** **reproach** (w/o accusation, free of any charge that can now stick in

    ‘His’ sight).  Satan is our non-stop accuser, whispering/yelling into our own

    hearts about ourselves/others and before God -- But Jesus is our advocate!

**“9**And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world… for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb…  **(Rev 12:9, 10b-11a)**

**4)** What’s the **evidence** of being reconciled to God?                **v 23a**

“**23**if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

1. **Continuing** to trust in Jesus ‘alone’ for salvation to the end (persevering)
2. **Continuing** to walk stable/steadfast… in attitude/actions no longer looking like one alienated from God, but looking like a child of our Father. A picture of sanctification, not perfection -- but a growing/maturing life transformed inwardly that is very obvious outwardly!
3. **Continuing** to hope in the gospel – settled in it. Not being tossed back and forth by new doctrines or experiences that differ from trusting in Christ alone. \*Paul says it’s the same gospel that changed Him and is changing the world!

**3 ways reconciliation to God through Christ should impact our daily lives:**

1. Reconciliation is a personal **gift** that results in **security** and **rejoicing**

“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be **saved** by Him **from the wrath of God**. For if while we were enemies **we were** **reconciled** to God by the death of His Son, much more, **now that we are reconciled**, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also “**rejoice**” in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now **received reconciliation**.**(Romans 5:9-11)**

1. Reconciliation is a **lifestyle** to be **practiced** amongst others

“You have heard that it was said to those of old: You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to hell fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be **reconciled** to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **(Matthew 5:21-24)**

**>>**Sometimes it takes a mediator – one whom both parties trust to bring light/truth and perspective as part of the reconciliation process… just like with us and God -

**See  1 Timothy 2:5**> ***“For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,who gave Himself as a ransom for all”***.

1. Reconciliation is a **message** to be **shared** with others

“Therefore, if **anyone is in** Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away *(the alienation/hostility/evil deeds);* behold, the new has come.  All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled** us to Himself and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**;that is, in Christ God was **reconciling** the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God**. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”**2 Cor. 5:17-21**