

Colossians – Reconciled in Christ  
Col. 1:19-23

Thesis: To understand the reconciliation that we have through the cross of Christ.

Introduction:

- I. There is a need and a purpose for reconciliation (1:21-22).
  - A. The need for reconciliation is because we are sinners (1:21).
    1. Notice what Paul says.
      - a. We were once alienated and enemies of God.
        - 1) To be an alien means that we were foreigners and strangers to God; we were not His.
        - 2) Eph. 2:12 (Paul speaking of Gentiles) - that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
          - b. We were enemies because of our own wicked works.
            - 1) This is not something that someone else did to us.
        - 2) It was (and is) because of our own wicked works (deeds) that we need to be reconciled back to Christ.
      2. We need to be reconciled to God because of the punishment of sin.
        - a. Rom. 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
        - b. Js. 1:14-15 - But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. {15} Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
      3. There is a need for reconciliation.
    - B. The purpose of reconciliation is “to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” (1:22).
      1. God has always wanted His people to be separate from the world.
        - a. Rom. 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
        - b. Js. 4:4 - Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
        - c. I Jn .2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. {16} For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. {17} And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.
        - d. I Pet. 2:11-12 - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, {12} having your conduct honorable among the

Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

2. In order to be separate from the world, we had to be reconciled back to God.

II. We are reconciled through the cross of Christ (1:19-22).

A. It is “through the blood of His cross” that we have peace with God (1:19-20).

1. It is interesting that it was through the worst death imaginable that peace was granted.

a. This is one of the great paradoxes in the Bible – peace through death.

b. A crucifixion was anything but peaceful; it was agonizing and could take up to a week to die.

2. However, it was through this gruesome death that we have peace with God.

a. II Cor. 5:18-21 - Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, {19} 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. {20} Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. {21} For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

b. Eph. 2:13-16 - But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. {14} For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, {15} having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, {16} and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

c. As Paul says in our text, we are “reconciled in the body of His flesh through death” (1:22).

B. This was the greatest price that anyone could pay for our reconciliation.

1. Jn. 15:13 - Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

2. Our reconciliation (which was created by our own actions) cost Jesus His blood.

III. We have this reconciliation if we “continue in the faith” (1:23).

A. Simply because Christ died on the cross does not mean that we are automatically saved.

1. We must continue in the faith.

2. We cannot live the way that we want to and expect God to give us the reward that comes by living the way that He wants us to live.

3. Remember, God wants us to be separate from the world.

B. We can be reconciled only if we continue in our faith until the end.

1. Mt. 10:22 - And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

2. Mt. 24:13 - But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

3. Rev. 2:10b - Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Conclusion: