

**“MINISTERS OF
RECONCILIATION”**
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

INTRODUCTION

Paul has spoken about what motivates him in the ministry: the fear of God and the love of Christ! It's God's love for us that compels us to serve him. This is similar to what Jesus told His disciples. They were sheep among wolves. You will be hated, but rewarded! We have a special role as ministers of Christ, which Paul explains. Christians are to be part of the ministry of reconciliation!

NEW POSITION

The amazing thing is that those who are born again, or in Christ, are considered a new creation! We were in Adam, but now we are in Christ! **Romans 8:1, Ephesians 1:1, Colossians 1:28**. We are complete when we are in Christ, not apart from Him. All things have become new. Even though some things may seem the same, we are positionally new. We go from being enemies (**Romans 5**) and uncooperative to now being His child and in harmony with Him. This new position will now enable the practice in our lives. God wants to put us through the sanctification process by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE RECONCILIATION

The purpose we now have is *reconciliation*. That means to reestablish proper friendly interpersonal relations after they have been disrupted. It is removing the hostility and making things right. This can happen between 2 people or between someone and God, except God hasn't done anything wrong! We can't reconcile by atoning for our sins. That's not good enough. The Lord wants us to admit that we were never good enough! When God does not impute our trespasses, it means He is not counting them against us.

Our new position in Christ is that of *ambassador*. As ambassadors our responsibilities are important! We behave and speak representing Jesus. We carry the message of Jesus, the gospel! Our message to others as if it was from Jesus Himself. It is for all to become reconciled to God. In fact, we plead or try to persuade others to do this! The reconciliation with God can happen only because Jesus shed His blood for our sins on the cross.

Remember **Matthew 10**: 1) the harvest is ready, but there are not enough workers, 2) Jesus had compassion and so must we, 3) We have been given ability, 4) It takes an effort, it takes work, 5) We must not be addicted to comfort! We must be willing to go without.

HE BECAME SIN!

The most startling statement in the Bible is that Jesus became sin. He did not become a sinner, but He took our sins upon Himself. There was a great exchange made! We gave Him our sins and He gave us His righteousness. Our sins won't count against us and the Father will see the righteousness of Jesus when He looks at us.

CONSIDER

Our mission as Christians is that of an ambassador. All of us! We are not representing ourselves, but Christ. *If others watch or listen to you, would they recognize you as His representative? Would they see you as a new creation?* May we live in such a way that all will see the "reconciled life" right in front of them!

PRAY.....

- * That the Lord would pour out His Spirit on our Baptism Picnic. May it be a time of worship and celebration!
- * That our Savior would work mightily in Calvary Chapel Academy and the School of Ministry this year.
- * That our political leaders would allow us to live quiet and peaceable lives so we may serve Him! (1 Tim. 2:1-4).