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## Reconciliation Pt 1 We are reconciled to God by the cross

Last week we finished off a teaching on “purpose” and established that a Christian’s purpose is to be ambassadors for Christ. Today we begin a new study on the topic of reconciliation, and establish three points – (1) reconcile means to make right, restore when there is division, and to make atonement, (2) we are reconciled to God by Jesus Christ, His death, the cross & the blood of His cross, and (3) Jew and Gentile are reconciled to God in one body by the cross.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

### 1. Reconcile means –

\* to make right, restore relationship where there is division – “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother” (Matt.5:23 & 24).

\* to make atonement – “And the priests...made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel” (2 Chr.29: 24).

Note: There is only one Greek word translated “reconcile” and that is also translated “reconciliation” and “atonement”.

### 2. We are reconciled to God by –

\* Jesus Christ – “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ” (2 Cor.5: 18). See Heb.2: 17.

\* Jesus’ death – “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son...” (Rom.5: 10).

\* the cross – “And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph.2: 16).

\* the blood of His cross – “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him” (Col.1: 20).

### 3. Jew and Gentile are reconciled to God in one body by the cross.

“And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby” (Eph.2: 16).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

A Hari Krishna is reconciled to their god by “Krishna consciousness”, a Muslim is reconciled to their god when he weighs up their good and bad, and a Catholic is reconciled with their church through works of charity.

Question to think about.

How is a Christian reconciled to God and how do they know they are reconciled?

Our answer from the scriptures.

i) A Christian is reconciled unto God by Jesus Christ, His death, specifically the blood that He shed on the cross at Calvary.

ii) A Christian knows they are reconciled to God because they believe the scriptures, which say that God no longer imputes “their trespasses unto them” (2 Cor.5: 19). Whereas the Hari Krishna lives his life seeking to attain to Krishna consciousness by his good works, the Muslim does likewise (Eph.2: 8), and the Roman Catholic seeks obedience to his church’s teaching – that reconciliation to the church takes place through the sacrament of penance (Catch.1422).

Let us remember – we are reconciled to God by the cross, not works, nor man-made sacraments, but only by the blood Christ shed on the cross!