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Reconciliation Pt 2 God gave us the ministry of reconciliation

This is our second study on the word reconciliation. In our previous study we established three points from the word of God – (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. In this teaching we establish (1) when reconciled to God a person is made the righteousness of God – their sins are no longer imputed unto them, and (2) we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, the word of reconciliation.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. When a person is reconciled to God

i) their trespasses are not imputed to them.

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Cor.5: 19).

ii) they are imputed with the righteousness of God.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor.5: 21).

“Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead” (Rom.4: 23 -24).

2. We have been given –

i) the ministry of reconciliation

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Cor.5: 18).

ii) the word of reconciliation

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself...and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Cor.5: 19).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

Reconciliation takes place in the world when two parties that have a dispute give a little with the goal of restoring friendly relations.

Question to think about.

What is the difference between man’s reconciliation with man and his reconciliation with God the Creator?

Our answer from the scriptures.

1. The key difference is that God has done everything for man to be reconciled to Himself – “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself”, and
2. man can do nothing to be reconciled to His heavenly Father, he cannot pay anything, there is no negotiation, and he cannot do any good works because it is his sin that separates him from God (Ps.34: 16).

Man can only believe God, and receive the sacrifice of His Son for his sin. When he does that he then takes up the ministry of reconciliation, the word of reconciliation and proclaims it to his friends and family that they too may know “that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation” (2 Cor.5: 19). Amen!