

Reconciliation Pt 4 Reconciliation between the saved and unsaved.

This is our fourth and final study on reconciliation. In our previous study we established two points – (1) be reconciled to your brethren when you have a matter against another, when there is division between husband and wife, and (2) to prevent division and facilitate reconciliation – speak the same thing, care for one another, take the wrong and avoid those who cause division. In this teaching we establish two points – (1) In marriage if the unbelieving depart there is no option to reconcile, and (2) to prevent division between yourselves and the lost – prefer one another and be not unequally yoked with an unbeliever.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. In marriage if the unbelieving depart there is no option to reconcile.

“But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband” (1 Cor.7: 11) c.f. 1 Cor 7:14 & 15 – “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart”.

Verse 11 applies to believers that are married, whereas verses 14 & 15 relates to married couple where one has become a believer and the unbeliever decides it is too much or there is division between them and so departs, the believer lets them depart with no option of – “or, be reconciled” as there is when the couple are Christians.

2. Therefore to prevent division between yourselves and the lost

i) “preferring one another” (Rom.12: 10), and

ii) “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (2 Cor.6: 14).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

I start a new job in February as branch manager – managing 7 staff, all of which are heathens. So if there is any contentions between staff or myself I will have to either assert my authority as branch manager or take the wrong.

Question to think about.

Where two heathens marry and one becomes a believer, how do they handle division?

Our answer from the scriptures.

The scriptures do not provide a direct answer to the question. However, given that the relationship between a husband and wife is likened to the relationship between Christ and the church – we look to Christ and see that He takes our sin, our wrong. Reconciliation begins with God who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, when a man acknowledges his sin, and believes in Christ God forgives their sin, and the man is reconciled to God. Therefore, when there is division between two saved people they understand sin, forgiveness and can be reconciled to each other.

But in a marriage where one is a believer and the other a non believer, the Christian can seek reconciliation with the unsaved but with the unbeliever having no knowledge of sin, forgiveness and reconciliation the believer is forced to –

a) Take the wrong when there is division, or

b) If the unbelieving has had enough and departs they let them depart with no reconciliation, or

c) the unbelieving spouse is reconciled to God and so understands sin, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Because, there is no reconciliation with the wicked, as there is between brethren.