

BE YE RECONCILED TO GOD

2Cor 5:17-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. God had reconciled (the apostles) unto himself
- B. Had given to (them- the apostles) the ministry of reconciliation
- C. This ministry involved "God. . . reconciling the world unto Himself;"
- D. The means of reconciliation is "the word".

DISCUSSION:

I. THERE IS A NEED FOR RECONCILIATION

- A. Sin separates one from God Isa 59:1,2
 - 1. One who is a friend of the world is an enemy of God Jas 4:1-4
 - 2. Word "reconcile" = "To make friends again" (restoration to (the divine) favor)
- B. Need for reconciliation began in garden of Eden Gen 3
 - 1. Man sinned in garden
 - 2. Sin brought the disfavor of God upon man
 - 3. Therefore, man became separated or estranged from God
- C. Penalty for sin is death (separation from God) Rom 6:23
- D. All have sinned and need to be reconciled, or made friends again with God or restored to Divine favor Rom 3:23

II. THERE IS A PLACE OF RECONCILIATION

- A. Not at the altar of prayer as some denomination teach
- B. It is in Christ Rom 5:10; 2Cor 5:17,18; Col 1:20-22
- C. One is "baptized into Christ" Gal 3:26,27
- D. Reconciliation is also said to be in the church, or body of Christ Eph 2:14-22 See also Col 1:18,24

III. THERE ARE OBSTACLES TO RECONCILIATION

- A. Sin, the cause of enmity, not removed Matt 1:21; Rom 6:23
- B. A lack of knowledge of God's word Hos 4:6; Jhn 8:31,32; Acts 17:11
- C. A failure to meet the conditions of forgiveness Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38
- D. A failure to apply the blood - the means of reconciliation Rom 5:8-10; Heb 2:17; Col 1:20

IV. THE RESULTS OF RECONCILIATION

- A. Trespasses not imputed 2Cor 5:19
 - 1. Impute - to reckon or take into account
 - 2. Iniquities forgiven
 - 3. Sins are covered Rom 4:7-9
- B. In one body, the body of Christ Eph 2:16; Col 1:18, 24
 - 1. Body is bride of Christ
 - 2. To be presented as a chaste virgin Col 1:22; 2Cor 11:2
- C. A crown of life - salvation Rev 2:10; Matt 10:22

CONCLUSION:

- A. Are you a friend or an enemy of God?
- B. If an enemy, Won't you be made friends with him again?
- C. Only way you can be friends again is on God's terms which have been spelled out in his will, the gospel.