

Back In April On Communion Sunday, ~ We Talked About ~ God's Grace.

Today ~ we're going to talk about reconciliation.

▶▶ Specifically, ~ what we're talking about is the fact that ~ ¶¶

▷▷ all who ~ have openly declared that Jesus is Lord ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and believe in their heart that God raised him from the dead ~ have peace with God.

▷▷ Rom. 5:1, ~ Therefore, ~ since we have been justified by faith, ~ we have peace with God ~ through ~ our Lord Jesus Christ.

We noted ~ at the end of our message on communion Sun. in April that ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the Lord's table ~ is for God's blood-bought people ~ to celebrate his infinite grace.

▶▶ Well, ~ it's also for God's blood-bought people to celebrate the fact ~ that we have peace with him.

▶▶ Like God's grace, ~ our reconciliation ~ fits right in ~ with the cross of Jesus.

▷▷ (Rom.) We were reconciled to God ~ by the death of his Son.

▷▷ For in him ~ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ~ and through him ~ to reconcile to himself all things, ~ whether on earth or in heaven, ~ making peace ~ by the blood of his cross. 1/8

Obviously, ~ There Is A Lot To Talk About When It Comes To This Subject.

But we're narrowing our focus to ~ two aspects ~ of our reconciliation.

▶▶ Col. 1:22a-b.

▶▶ 1<sup>st</sup> aspect, ~ 22a, ~ the fact ~ of recon.

▶▶ And the 2<sup>nd</sup> aspect, ~ 22b, ~ the means ~ of recon.

The Fact Of Reconciliation. ~ Verse 22a (NIV).

But now ~ he has reconciled you.

▶▶ The emphasis of reconciliation ~ is that ~ of making peace with God.

▶▶ Human beings ~ are estranged ~ from God.

▷▷ And through reconciliation ~ are brought into communion ~ with God.

▶▶ Sin ~ had created a barrier ~ between man and God, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and rendered humanity hostile toward God, ~ as Gen. 3 so sadly relates.

▶▶ Through Christ ~ that barrier was removed.

▶▶ Reconciliation ~ may thus be defined as ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God removing the barrier of sin, ~ producing peace, ~ and enabling humanity to be saved. 2/8

Now, ~ it is extremely important to understand ~ that reconciliation ~ is not ~ not equivalent ~ to salvation.

▶▶ Reconciliation has both ~ an objective ~ and a subjective ~ aspect.

▶▶ The objective aspect of reconciliation ~ is that in which humans ~ ¶¶

▷▷ are reconciled to God prior to faith ~ and are rendered savable.

▶▶ But reconciliation ~ does not ~ eliminate the need for individuals ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to respond in faith to this work of God.

▶▶ The subjective aspect of reconciliation ~ is that in which people ~ ¶¶

▷▷ are reconciled to God ~ when they believe.

↳↳ IOW, ~ people must accept ~ the reconciliation that God has offered.

It is also extremely important to understand ~ that we did not ~ and could not ~ ¶¶

▶▶ reconcile ourselves to God.

▶▶ Due to our total depravity, ~ the people of this world ~ cannot ~ ¶¶

▷▷ remove the barrier between ourselves and God.

▶▶ So ~ a loving, ~ merciful God ~ sent his Son ~ to remove it for us ~ ¶¶

▷▷ through his sacrificial death on the cross. 3/8

My . . . , ~ it is a fact ~ that we, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ who have accepted this reconciliation God has offered through his Son ~ have peace with God.

▶▶ Paul also states the fact of our reconciliation in [Rom. 5:1](#).

▷▷ Therefore, ~ since we have been justified by faith, ~ we have peace with God ~ through our Lord Jesus Christ.

▶▶ My . . . , ~ having peace with God ~ means ~ ¶¶

▷▷ there is no more hostility between us and God, ~ no sin blocking our relationship with him.

We must reiterate because ~ it's so important ~ and ~ it's good news.

▶▶ If you openly declare ~ that Jesus is Lord ~ and believe in your heart ~ that God raised him from the dead, ~ you will be saved.

▷▷ You will have ~ peace with God.

And here is something ~ that should always amaze us, ~ i.e., ~ the blood-bought people of God.

▶▶ We were ~ in open rebellion against, ~ enemies of, ~ and hostile toward ~ God ~ in our unsaved state.

▶▶ But even in the face of all of this, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God ~ carried through the work of reconciliation. 4/8

▶▶ He is the One ~ who took the initiative in his ~ mercy, ~ love, ~ and grace ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to carry through ~ the work of reconciliation.

▶▶ The word reconciliation ~ comes from the Greek word that means ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to effect a change, ~ to reconcile.

▶▶ God is the one ~ who initiated this change or reconciliation.

▷▷ He moved ~ to reconcile sinful humanity to Himself

▶▶ We know from what Paul tells us in Eph., ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God is so rich in mercy, ~ and he loved us so much, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that even though ~ we were dead in our trespasses, ~ ¶¶

→→ he ~ made us alive together with Christ ~ and raised us up with him ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and seated us with him in the heavenly places.

↳↳ By grace we have been saved.

▶▶ Jesus died for us ~ when we ~ were still weak, ~ ungodly, ~ and could do nothing for ourselves.

▷▷ He died for us ~ while we were still sinners ~ and while we were his enemies. 5/8

The fact of reconciliation, ~ 22a (NIV). ⇔⇔ But now ~ he has reconciled you.

▶▶ Notice the past tense here.

▶▶ This was ~ a finished ~ and full ~ act.

▶▶ Paul does not say, ~ "But now you have been ~ partially ~ reconciled."

▶▶ Nothing is left ~ that might be added to Jesus' work.

▷▷ Everything ~ that was necessary for our redemption and reconciliation ~ ¶¶

↳↳ was accomplished ~ through Christ's work on our behalf.

▷▷ Jesus paid it all.

▷▷ After making purification for sins, ~ he sat down ~ at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

▶▶ The just punishment ~ for humankind's sins ~ was ~ endured by Jesus ~ and exhausted.

▶▶ The result is ~ that there remains ~ no obstacle ~ in the way of a person having peace with God.

▶▶ All may come to the Father through Jesus, ~ be reconciled to him ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and be at peace with him ~ now and for eternity.

▶▶ All people need to do ~ is accept the reconciliation ~ that Jesus has achieved. 6/8

Now Let's Look At The Means ~ Of Recon, ~ 2b.

By Christ's physical body ~ through death.

▶▶ According to Col. 1:20, ~ God chose to send his Son ~ for the designated purpose of ~ 77

▷▷ reconciling all creation, ~ and in particular fallen humanity, ~ to himself.

▶▶ Because Jesus is God, ~ He was able ~ to do ~ what no mere man could ever do: ~ 77

▷▷ reconcile lost sinners to the Father.

▶▶ And the means by which this reconciliation was accomplished ~ 77

▷▷ was Christ's substitutionary death on the cross.

And it is extremely important to understand, ~ that Jesus' death on the cross ~ 77

▶▶ was ~ a substitutionary sacrifice.

▶▶ Jesus substituted himself in our place.

▷▷ Is. 53:4-6.

↳↳ Surely he has ~ borne our griefs ~ and carried our sorrows; ~ yet we esteemed him ~ stricken, ~ smitten by God, ~ and afflicted. But he was pierced ~ for our transgressions; ~ he was crushed ~ for our iniquities; ~ upon him ~ was the chastisement ~ that brought us peace, ~ and with his wounds ~ we are healed.

↳↳ All we like sheep ~ have gone astray; ~ we have turned—every one—to his own way; ~ and the Lord has laid on him ~ the iniquity of us all. 7/8

▷▷ And 1 Pet. 2:24 (NIV).

↳↳ "He himself ~ bore our sins" ~ in his body on the cross, ~ so that ~ we might ~ die to sins ~ and live for righteousness; ~ "by his wounds ~ you have been healed."

▶▶ Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice ~ satisfied God 's righteous demands ~ ¶¶

▷▷ by paying in full ~ the penalty for sin.

▶▶ The doctrine of substitution ~ is important ~ in that through Christ's death ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the righteous demands of God ~ have been met.

▷▷ It was a legal transaction ~ in which ~ Christ dealt with the sin problem for the human race.

▷▷ He became ~ the substitute ~ for humanity's sin.

▷▷ Without the shedding of blood ~ there is no forgiveness of sins.

My . . . , ~ Peace With God ~ Is A Reality Of Life ~ Forever For Believers.

So let's come to the Lord's table ~ with hearts filled ~ with gratitude and joy.

▶▶ And let's celebrate ~ God's infinite grace ~ and ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that we have eternal peace with him. 8/8