

Doctrine of Reconciliation

1. The word “*reconciliation*” has as the central idea the restoration of friendship and fellowship after estrangement.
2. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden they lost the basis of friendship with God. Fellowship was broken. They needed to be reconciled to God. But how was this possible?
3. In *Scripture*, the ordained way for individuals to be reconciled to God is by means of a covering through a blood sacrifice.
4. Adam and Eve found a covering for their sins. Genesis 3:21 says, “*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*”
5. The implication of Genesis 3:21 is that God Himself shed the blood of the animals to get that which would cover Adam and Eve. God provided the means and the symbol of their reconciliation and restoration to friendship and fellowship with Himself.
6. Later, when the Law was given, atonement was provided whereby souls could be reconciled to God. There was to be a covering for sin.
 - *Leviticus 16:20 And when he [the High Priest of Israel] hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:*
7. In the *New Testament* the word “*reconciliation*” includes not only a covering for sin but also a changing of the person from one position to another.
8. By nature individuals are born alienated from God by inbred sin and then by personal choice. Every person therefore needs to be reconciled to God. The sinner needs to become a saint. But how is this possible?
9. There is only one way and that is by the blood of Christ. In matchless grace God has reconciled Christians unto Himself.
 - *2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 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.*

10. The sins of every person who receives Christ as personal Saviour are forgiven. And there is more, for sins are not just covered, they are sent away. There is a divine separation of the penalty and pollution of sin from the believer so that the soul is justified or declared absolutely righteous in the sight of God.
11. The shed blood of Christ is the atoning work of redemption and becomes the basis for friendship and fellowship to be restored between God and man. The soul is taken from the kingdom of darkness and placed into the kingdom of light.
- *Ephesians 2:16 And that he [Christ] might reconcile [or change thoroughly from one position to another] both [Jew and Gentile] unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity [hostility] thereby.*
 - *Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*
 - *Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight.*
12. Because God has restored the believer to friendship and fellowship every Christian is under a divine mandate to show amazing grace to others. Christians are to be like Christ and find a way to love one another and work together in harmony in the body of Christ.
- *Philippians 2:2 Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*
 - *Phil 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings.*
13. When the invitation comes to be reconciled one to another, it is a divine moment. Do not let it pass by. It is the will of the Lord.
- *Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*
 - *John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*

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and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.”

We must not fail the Lord in this matter.