

In Christ We Have a New Ministry!

Because believers are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, they become ambassadors for Him with the ministry of reconciliation—preaching these facts so that others can likewise be reconciled to God.

1. **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** -

- i. **Our Ministry-V18** - *“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation”*
- ii. One of the great themes of Scripture is reconciliation, and it is especially prominent in Paul’s writings. Speaking to believers, Paul states that God has already “reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ.” Reconciliation speaks of the restoration of a former relationship. The key phrase in this statement is **“in Christ”**
- iii.
 1. It is used of the restoration of the marriage relationship

1 Corinthians 7:11 ¹¹ *But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.*

In our present context, it is used of the restoration of the relationship between God and man which was lost when Adam fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. Our mission in life as believers in Christ is to expedite the restoration of this broken relationship between God and man. But how can this be done?

Our Message-V19 **The Divine Side.** (God & Christ made the world savable)

“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”

The words, **“to wit, that”** carries the idea that Paul is now going to explain himself further. And indeed, the remaining verses explain how God has made it possible for all mankind to be saved, yet still requires some response on their part. Verse 19 explains that God has made the world *save-able* by His work through Christ. The net result of Christ’s death is that God is not “imputing” (counting) the world’s sin against them. In other words, God has done His part to effect a reconciliation. But as in a marriage a full reconciliation requires something from both sides.

~ Certainly, man has no part in the *purchase* or *provision* of salvation. That alone belongs to God, effected by the shed blood of Christ at Calvary! But it remains true that God has *always* required some response of faith for the application of salvation to the individual sinner. In this Dispensation of Grace, the required response (belief) happens to be faith alone in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (see **1 Corinthians 15:3,4**). It is because of this requirement that God ***“hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation...and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation”*** (**2 Corinthians 18b,19b**).

V20 **The Human Side:**

²⁰ *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

Verse 20 actually gives two facets of the human side of the equation. First, we find the part of the believer: “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us...”

Scripture makes it abundantly clear that believers have a responsibility to make known the gospel to the lost.

1 Corinthians 9:22b *I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.* Paul is saying that the believer who transmits the message of reconciliation contained in the gospel does “save” someone if they believe. This is the sense that Paul is speaking of here.

The second facet of the human side is the need for the correct decision of faith on the part of the hearer. ***“We pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20b).***

We are literally to beg men and women, boys and girls to put their faith in Christ and thus become **“reconciled to God.”**