



PASTOR'S OUTLINE

August 7, 2005

IRRECONCILABLE DIFFERENCES?

Colossians 1.20-23

*“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Christ), and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

*Once you were **alienated** from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has **reconciled** you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.” Colossians 1.19-23*

Irreconcilable differences are a huge problem in our world today. We live in a world in which people feel alienated. Of course, there are many "reasons" for this alienation. We are all familiar with the common ones— race, education, money, status, and religion.

Why so much hostility? Why so much alienation? Well, the root cause of human alienation is alienation from God. And until we are reconciled to God we will never be reconciled to one another. Our only hope is divine reconciliation. In other words, God must step in and do something that we can't do. He must bridge the gap. He must bring us back to himself. He must make things right.

Core Competency: Salvation by Grace

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2.8-9

1. God's Plan of Reconciliation

*“...and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were **alienated from God** and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.” Colossians 1.20-21*

*“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, **'Where are you?'**” Genesis 3.8-9*

Genesis 3.10-19

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it.” Romans 8.20

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” Romans 8.20-21

*“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **No longer will there be any curse.** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”* Revelation 22.1-5

2. The Price God Needed for Reconciliation

*“...by **making peace through his blood**, shed on the cross... But now **he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death...**”* Colossians 1.20b, 22a

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6.23

3. God’s Ultimate Purpose of Reconciliation

*“...**to present you holy in his sight**, without blemish and free from accusation...”* Colossians 1.22b

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5.21

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”
2 Corinthians 3.18 (NASB)

4. Now What?

*“...**if you continue in your faith**, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”* Colossians 1.23

*“For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and **delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.**”* Colossians 2.5

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5.17-21