

## II Corinthians 5:18-21 Reconciled To God ; The Sweetest Reality 3/15/2026

“To reconcile is to end a relationship of enmity, and to substitute for it one of peace and goodwill. The desire to reconcile was God’s, who found in the death of His Son (Romans 3:25 ff) a way in which his love for the sinner and His wrath against sin could be accommodated, so that He might both be righteous Himself, and justify the man- the sinful man- who relies on faith in Christ.” Barnett

“ The **subject** of the reconciliation is God (II Corinthians 5:18-21). (God is the one taking the initiative in the process, He is the one doing the action, not man.) *This is the theological novelty in comparison with non-Christian religious thought, which know the deity only as the object of the reconciling work of man.*”

“The **reconciling** (Greek- *katallage*) created by God is thus a **completed act** which precedes all human action. Man was an enemy before the reconciliation took place. “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled shall be saved **by His life**. ( i.e., His resurrection is the guarantee of that salvation) Romans 5:10.”

“Human action, including even repentance and confession of sins, is not a work of man to bring about and initiate reconciliation, to which God reacts. “

“Of primary importance,,, the good news is already complete. It is the ground of the believer’s joy in God; ‘Not only this, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, though whom we have **now** received our reconciliation.’ Romans 5:11.”

“What Paul calls , “ the message of reconciliation” ( II Cor. 5:20b) **is the gospel itself**. And the proclamation of the gospel is laid on the whole church.” (We need ambassadors!) Barnett. Collin Brown Dictionary Of New Testament Theology P. 167-169

### **Text: II Corinthians 5:18-21 \*\*\*\*\***

**5:18** “ all these things”- mainly the doctrinal things in 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians , but particularly the description of the New Covenant from II Cor. 3 to this point.

God is the one getting every obstacle out of the way so we will not face judgement. He came down in humility, in the person of Christ, to reconcile the world. We simply need to receive it as a gift. (Romans 6:23).

**5:19 "God was in Christ"** "The idea of a loving Jesus winning over a wrathful God is foreign to Paul's gospel!" F.F. Bruce

**Ex. John 14: 8-9** "„, the Father abiding in Me does His work."

**We sinned, and God chose to suffer for it. He paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.**

**5:20 "We are ambassadors for Christ"** Ambassadors focus on the good of their king. They do not get sidelined, or get lost in their own affairs. You can see and hear the focus in them. An ambassador does not speak his own opinions, but the things of the one who sent him.

**Question: What if they want to hurt the messenger?** You were told that when you signed up for the job. **John 15:18-20**

When it happens, you will never feel so alive! **Acts 5: 40-42**

He is the head and we are the body. The love of Christ will pour out of us. We appeal with gentleness, with the passion of Christ Himself.

**Ex. II Cor. 10:1** "Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ,,,"

**5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf"** (substitutionary atonement)

**Leviticus 16:21, Isaiah 53: 4-6, I Peter 3:18, Romans 4:25**

**"so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him"** - Just being forgiven will not be enough when your emotions are blinding you. You have to know you are righteous in God's eyes now that you know Christ.

**Barnett-** "„, where Christ is said to have assumed our sin so that 'we might become the righteousness of God' is no legal fiction. For in Christ the believer actually assumes His righteousness, just as Christ assumed the believer's sin. Since transgressions no longer counted against men, the way was open for reconciliation; nothing remained but for men to take it. This however they could not do unless they were informed of the possibility now open to them."

**Question:** So, who will tell them?

Just being told we are forgiven will not be enough when your emotions are blinding you. But here we see a transformed life. The very life of Christ in us!

**Read II Cor. 5: 14-21**