

RECONCILIATION

BY KEITH GREER

Today we want to discuss what the Bible says about reconciliation. *“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”* {2 Corinthians 5:18-20} Defined, the word means **“to establish a close relationship between; to settle, or resolve.”**

Degeneration. *“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”* {Romans 6:16} When one commits sin, we separate ourselves from God, *Isaiah 59:1,2*. One now is in need of RECONCILIATION to get back to God.

Regeneration. *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”* {1Peter 1:22,23} When one obeys the gospel, we come into contact with the blood of Christ through our baptism, *Romans 6:3,4*. This provides the means through which one achieves RECONCILIATION.

Alien sinners. *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”* {Romans 3:23-26} We all need reconciliation, since we've all sinned. We are justified by Christ's blood that paid the ransom price for our sins, *Ephesians 1:7*. This would never have been possible without His death on the cross, *Hebrews 9:22*.

Agents: Christ, Holy Spirit and the Word.

CHRIST- *“For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10)*

HOLY SPIRIT- *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” {John 16:13}*

GOD’S WORD- *“That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” {2 Corinthians 5:19}*

The three work in unison to bring about mankind’s reconciliation. Before Creation, God planned to reconcile sinful men back to Himself by means of His Son, the sacrifice for sins. The Holy Spirit revealed the means that enables reconciliation—the word, which has the power to save the sinner!

Result. *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” {Ephesians 2:14-16}* God’s eternal plan brought mankind into a position to enjoy the benefits of reconciliation, through the blood of His obedient Son. Thanks be to God that He loved us enough to save us despite our feeble attempt to save ourselves. Do I have an AMEN?
