

Reconcile

1. to make (oneself or another) no longer opposed;
2. to become friendly with (someone) after estrangement or to re-establish friendly relations between (two or more people)
3. to settle (a quarrel or difference)
4. to make (two apparently conflicting things) compatible or consistent with each other
5. to reconsecrate (a desecrated church, etc)

Reconciliation is defined as the re-establishment of friendship or relationship. Jesus Christ reconciled all mankind back to “friendship” with God. In other words, the relationship that Adam damaged through sin (the original sin), Jesus restored by becoming the perfect, ultimate sacrifice (propitiation) through His death and made the atonement (covering, payment) for the sins of the world. It is important for every believer to know that God is not angry with us and that He is not estranged from us. The finished work of Jesus Christ (His sinless life, death and resurrection) has made full restoration between God and His people. And as professing believers, we have been called to the ministry (service) of reconciliation. As Jesus has restored each of us to God, we are to continue the process of restoring others. Some of the points of study are as follows:

- God, through Jesus, has restored all things to Himself
- God has given us the Ministry of Reconciliation and we are now His Ambassadors
- We are called to be instruments of restoration for family, friends and acquaintances

As we begin the study of reconciliation, it is important to understand the reason why it was necessary so we will start at the beginning and examine the original sin (Adam & Eve in the Garden), God’s attempt to start over by destroying all living things with the exception of one righteous man’s family and two of every kind of animal (Noah’s Ark). We will also examine the law given to Moses that included methods of atoning for sin using the blood of animals and lastly, we will thoroughly examine the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ which was the means by which we received reconciliation and which was God’s plan from the foundation of the world, even before Adam’s sin. As ambassadors for Christ and ministers of reconciliation, it is imperative that we are able to articulate (with simplicity) why we (all mankind) needed to re-establish friendship with God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20: KJV

¹⁸And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

¹⁹To 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.

²⁰Now 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.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20: NLT

¹⁸ And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. ²⁰ So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

2 Corinthians 5:18-20: AMP

¹⁸But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him].

¹⁹It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor).

²⁰So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] and be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20: MSG

¹⁶⁻²⁰Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.