

## 2 Corinthians 5:18–21

<sup>18</sup> Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

### *Ambassadors for Christ 2 Corinthians 5:18-21*

#### INTRO:

Most of Paul's presentation so far in this text has involved motivation. He answered the question, *Paul, why do you do what you do?* He did it all because he had his eyes anchored on eternal things. He did it to please Christ. He did it because the love of Christ motivated Him. He did it because he lived for Him who died for him. Paul did it because of his new creation life in Christ. Now what did Paul do?

#### *I. The Basis of Our Reconciliation (v. 18-19)*

#### *II. The Ministry of Reconciliation (v. 20-21)*

#### *I. The Basis of Our Reconciliation (v. 18-19)*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-21** *“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”*

A. Paul did what he did because human beings need to be reconciled to God. Many folks today like those in ancient Corinth do not feel they need to be reconciled. They subscribed to the idea, *“I'm Ok and you're Ok.”* The problem is that we are decidedly not ok. The Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 5:8–11**;

***“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 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. And not only that, but we also***

***rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”***

1. God the Father loved us, by sending His Son to die for us. Why did He do this? (1) It demonstrated His love for us. (2) Through Christ’s death we are declared righteous and (3) we are reconciled to God.

2. We were enemies not because God did something evil to us. We were enemies’ because we rebelled against the God who never did anything but good to us. We sinned, and committed an offense against God. He is the only one who can forgive us to reinstate us in fellowship with Him. He could only forgive this because Jesus Christ died in our place and for us.

B. The point Paul makes is the only reason we can be ministers of reconciliation is because God did all of this.

**v.18 *“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”***

God the Father in His Son made reconciliation for us and has given a window of reconciliation to the world. This is why this discussion finishes in **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**. ***“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”***

## ***II. The Ministry of Reconciliation (v.20-21)***

**2 Corinthians 5:19-21 *“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. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***

A. The Apostle then described his job and ours is to be ambassadors on behalf of Christ. Because of all God did for us, because, the knowledge of God moves us and the God’s love compels us, we must be the authorized representatives for Christ’s sake.

1. A major issue in the first century was one of authority. Why could the Lord Jesus do what He did? Do you remember the question the authorities asked Jesus in **Matthew 21:23**?

***“Now when [the Lord Jesus] came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, ‘By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?’”***

2. The disciples and apostles had the same trouble. We read in **Acts 4:7**;  
***“And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, ‘By what power or by what name have you done this?’”***

3. When someone today says to you, *“What right have you to call me a sinner or to tell me I need a Savior,”* here is your authority. You are an ambassador, a spokesperson on the behalf of Christ the King of all the Universe, the One and only true and living God has sent me with this message for you.

B. Now comes the job description. Here is what we are to do. We are to speak **v.20** ***“as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”***

Our authorized message is the message of salvation and reconciliation to the God whom we have offended.

C. Finally, the Apostle Paul summarizes the message.  
**2 Corinthians 5:21** ***“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”***

1. This is the essence of the message of reconciliation. God is so holy our sin had to be atoned before we could be reconciled.

2. God is so wise. He found a way to provide for our sins and make us right with Him.

3. God was so loving He sent His Son His only Son to die for our sins and to save us for all eternity.

Do we know Him? Are we sharing the message of reconciliation?

**Hymn #204 *Rock of Ages***