

The Actual Accomplishments of the Crucifixion of Christ, Pt. 3 Reconciliation —John 19:30 Colossians 1:19–23

Introduction

John 19:28–30 (NKJV)

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, **“I thirst!”** ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!”** And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Matthew Mark and Luke tell us that he cried this out with a loud voice.

This statement that Jesus makes "it is finished" and also the statement verse 28 it says all things were now accomplished has caused us to ask the question, 'what exactly was accomplished and what is finished?'

Whatever was done here has been completed, finished and it's actual and historical.

The accomplishment of the work of the cross is not a perpetual atonement. It is not something that is ongoing. It is not happening in heaven as we speak. It is not happening as a sinner believes in repents and confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. A real work was done and accomplished that day 2000 years ago.

We are considering a few of those accomplishments. First is Substitution
Second is Propitiation
and today we start to consider Reconciliation

The verb *katallassō* (**to reconcile**) means “to change” or “exchange.” Its New Testament usage speaks of a change in a relationship. In 1 Corinthians 7:11 it refers to a woman being reconciled to her husband. In its other two New Testament usages, Romans 5:10, and 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, it speaks of God and man being reconciled. When people change from being at enmity with each other to being at peace, they are said to be reconciled. When the Bible speaks of reconciliation, then, it refers to the restoration of a right relationship between God and man.

There is another term for reconcile that is used in Colossians 1:20, 22—*apokatalassō*. It is a compound word, made up of the basic word for

reconcile, *katallassō*, with a preposition added to intensify the meaning. It means thoroughly, completely, or totally reconciled. Paul no doubt used this stronger term in Colossians as a counterattack against the false teachers. Because they held that Christ was merely another spirit being emanating from God, they also denied the possibility of man's being reconciled to God by Christ alone. In refuting that denial, Paul emphasizes that there is total, complete, and full reconciliation through the Lord Jesus. Inasmuch as He possesses all the fullness of deity (1:19; 2:9), Jesus is able to fully reconcile sinful men and women to God (1:20).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1992). *Colossians* (p. 56). Chicago: Moody Press.

Lesson:

Reconciliation is a major theme in the writings of the Apostle Paul regarding the accomplishments of the Cross.

The topic is address in:

Romans 5, Ephesians 2, Colossians 1 and 2 Corinthians 5 in detail.

Each passage in one form or another, refers to the need of the cessation hostility between God and the sinner, and the accomplishment of peace.

Like I mentioned last Sunday, these realities can become purely academic in our minds. We have been numbed by our culture to the heinous nature of sin.

And add to that the, Biblical illiteracy of our evangelical churches and you have a mixture that is just right for not understanding the magnitude of these statements.

Much of the contemporary evangelical approach to evangelism as accommodated the culture in the dumbing down the gospel to a few simple statements.

One of the reasons for this is the lack of attention span of the average adult.

In the last decade, the attention span has dropped 50% , according to one study.

Attention spans in 1998: 12 minutes.

Attention spans in 2008: 5 minutes

<https://brandongaille.com/average-attention-span-statistics-and-trends/>

And that is the good news, because according to an article published June 14, 2020,

The attention span is now 8 seconds, 1 second less than the average attentions span of a gold fish.

A [recently published study](#) found that the collective attention span of people across the globe has been narrowing over the years. The study also highlighted

the effects of an increasingly digitalized lifestyle on our brains.

It has been found that high levels of internet use can impact many different functions of the brain. For instance, the limitless prompts and streams of notifications on the web encourage us to constantly hold divided attention.

<https://muckrack.com/blog/2020/07/14/how-declining-attention-spans-impact-your-social-media>

It has been concluded that for those who watch TV, commercials need to be 10 seconds or less to be watched by the average consumer.

<https://brandongaille.com/average-attention-span-statistics-and-trends/>

This has had a major affect on the Church and her mission to evangelize the lost world.

As a result, of the dumbing down of theology, the numbing nature of our culture toward sin and the lack of attention span of the average sinner.

Most approaches to evangelism have been reduced to a few simple statements that are summed up by the 4 spiritual laws produced by Campus Crusade for Christ.

1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for you life
2. Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.
3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for you life.
4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love for our lives.

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There are a couple of things that stand out to me in those statements

1. The obvious emphasis that the whole goal of all of this is to experience the Love of God and His wonderful plan for your life. IT is me centered it all about what I can get.
2. The obvious absence of the wrath of God against sinners and our hostility towards God. The closest we get to any affirmation of this is.

““The wages of sin is death” [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).”

“God has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.”

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3. The Total absence of Biblical Repentance.

The closest we get is:

“Receiving Christ involves turning from self (repentance)...

That is not biblical repentance. It included turning from self, but also included more specifically turning from my sin and idolatry and our wrong thinking about Christ and God.

Often, the picture is given of a great gulf between God and man which man cannot span with all his good works, and religious activity, but only God can span it by laying the cross down to span the distance and to make the bridge between God and man accessible .

The problem with this is that although it does communicate some truth, it does not communicate all the truth.

What might be a better picture would be a great raging river of Gods wrath rising ever so closer to the sinner on the shore, who is raising his fist in hostility towards God, cursing and blaspheming his name, all the while God is building a bridge in the shape of a cross to reach the sinner and drag him across to safety.

The reality of our true condition often gets misrepresented by our assumption that grace and mercy are the norm and should always be expected.

Let me explain what I mean.

We look at the events of judgment in the past such as the

Flood, where everyone but 8 are killed

Sodom and Gomorrah,

the command of God to Israel to kill every living things of the pagans as they take the promise land.

or

2 Samuel 6:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for *his* error; and he died there by the ark of God.

2 Kings 2:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, “Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!”

²⁴ So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

We say, how could God do such a thing.

Some have even concluded erroneously that there is a different God of the Old Testament .

We come to the NT.

Luke 13, The

Luke 13:1–5 (NKJV)

13 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, “**Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they**

were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

Acts 5:1–2 (NKJV)

5 But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet.

Acts 5:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. ⁶ And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*.

Acts 5:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. ⁸ And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?”

She said, “Yes, for so much.”

⁹ Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out.” ¹⁰ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband.

The Question is raised, How can a loving God do such a thing....

But that is not the right question

The Question Not why did God kill all those people. and only let some live.

The question is why did he let any of us live at all

Periodically, God will show us all what we deserve to remind us why grace is grace and mercy is mercy and that you have not received justice.

Like our topic last week of Propitiation, when we talk about the wrath of God being satisfied on the cross, so that we are now delivered from that Wrath,

The culture and even the church says

I need to be saved?

Saved from what?

YOU need to be saved from the Wrath of God.

The same seems to be the case with

Reconciliation.

We hear that there is a need for reconciliation, and then the response comes...

Reconciled for what?

I thought God loves us and had a wonderful plan
for our lives and wanted to forgive us.

Why do we need to be reconciled?

After all I don't hate God and don't consider Him
my enemy.

And he doesn't hate me. So why do we need to
be reconciled

Isn't He up in Heaven just hoping I will come so
His plan will be successful?

Like the Hymn

The Savior is waiting to enter your heart,
Why don't you let Him come in?
There's nothing in this world to keep you apart,
What is your answer to Him?

Time after time He has waited before,
And now He is waiting again,
To see if you're willing to open the door,
Oh, how he wants to come in.

The picture is too often painted that God is this
benign old grandfather who loves us no matter what
we do.

But the Biblical picture is quite the opposite of this
In fact, it presents God as the Offended party

and we are the offender.

The relationship is broken, not because of what God did, but because of what we did.

God is at war with us because we are at war with Him.

It is we who left God, not God who left us.

When Adam was in the Garden, it was him and his rebellion against God that severed the relationship and Adam did not go looking for God but rather God came looking for Him.

That has been the way it has been throughout history. Man does not look for God, he does not seek God, rather he hides from God and runs from God.

It is God in Christ that came to seek and save the lost.

It is God who desires reconciliation with man not man with God.

Remember

John 3:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

It is God who is the initiator of the reconciliation. If it was left up to man reconciliation would never take place. Since it is God who is the one who has been offended, then it is God who must forgive and reconcile. Man does not have any ability to do anything to cause the reconciliation to take place. He is the offender and continues to be an offense to a holy and righteous God until God through Christ brings reconciliation.

Colossians 1:19–22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

The Makeup of the ones needing Reconciled
The Motivation to of God to Reconcile
The Means to Accomplish Reconciliation

1. The Makeup of the ones needing Reconciled

What I mean by this is what exactly are the words or phrases that are used to describe what we are and our condition before this reconciliation takes place. Frankly it is not a pretty picture.

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who once were **alienated** and **enemies** in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

Romans 5:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 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

Ephesians 2: (NKJV)

— **12** that at that time you were without Christ, being **aliens** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

15 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,

16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.

The key word seems to be enemy.
it is implied by the word enmity = hostility

alienated is a result of the being a hostile enemy,

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who **once** were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

were

<p>ὄντας being <u>V-PPA-AMP</u></p>

eimí (the basic Greek verb which expresses being, i.e. "to be") – am, is. **1510** (eimí), and its counterparts, (properly) convey "straight-forward" being (existence, i.e. without explicit limits).

once

pote: once, ever

Original Word: ΠΟΤΕ

Part of Speech: Particle, Disjunctive Particle

Transliteration: pote

Phonetic Spelling: (pot-eh')

Definition: once, ever

Usage: at one time or other, at some time, formerly.

ἀπηλλοτριωμένους
 alienated
 V-RPM/P-AMP

apallotrioo: to alienate, estrange

Original Word: ἀπαλλοτριόομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: apallotrioo

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-al-lot-ree-o'-o)

Definition: to alienate, estrange

Usage: I estrange, alienate; pass: I am alienated from.

allotrios: belonging to another

Original Word: ἀλλότριος, ία, ιον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: allotrios

Phonetic Spelling: (al-lot'-ree-os)

Definition: belonging to another

Usage: belonging to another person, belonging to others, foreign, strange.

. **Being in time past alienated** (ποτε ὄντας ἀπηλλοτριωμένους [*pote ontas apēllotriōmenous*]). Periphrastic perfect passive participle (continuing state of alienation) of ἀπαλλοτριω [*apallotriō*], old word from Plato on, to estrange, to render ἀλλότριος [*allotrios*] (belonging to another), alienated from God, a vivid picture of heathenism as in Rom. 1:20–23

Robertson, A. T. (1933). [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](#) (Col 1:21). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

There is reference to a process or act which has brought about this state, whether we think of the judgment of God or the guilt of man, only to the extent that this state is culpable and worthy of condemnation;

Büchsel, F. (1964–). [ἄλλος, ἀλλότριος, ἀπαλλοτριώω, ἀλλογενής, ἀλλόφυλος](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 1, pp. 265–266). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

enemies

echthros: hostile

Original Word: ἐχθρός, ἄ, ὄν

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: echthros

Phonetic Spelling: (ech-thros')

Definition: hostile

Usage: hated, hostile; subst: an enemy.

2190 exthrós – properly, an enemy; someone openly hostile (at enmity), animated by deep-seated hatred.

2190/exthros ("enemy"), implies irreconcilable hostility, proceeding out of a "personal" hatred bent on inflicting harm (DNTT).

[2190 (exthrós) describes a person resolved to inflict harm (see DNTT, Vol 1, 553) – i.e. driven by irreconcilable, deep-rooted enmity.]

denotes the inner disposition from which hostility arises, i.e., "hatred

Foerster, W. (1964–). [ἐχθρός, ἔχθρα](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 811). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

While the Heb. [בְּיָאֵן](#) denotes both personal and national enemies, [ἐχθρός](#) has more of the sense of personal hostility. The word is used in the LXX for a. enemies in war among the Gentiles, e.g., 1 Βασιλ. 29:8; Na. 3:11, 13, and personal enemies in daily life, Ex. 23:4; Nu. 35:23

Foerster, W. (1964–). [ἐχθρός, ἔχθρα](#). G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), *Theological dictionary of the New Testament* (electronic ed., Vol. 2, p. 812). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

Romans 5:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ 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.

Luke 19:43–45 (NKJV)

⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

Revelation 11:5 (NKJV)

⁵ And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their **enemies**. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

Acts 13:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who also *is called* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, *you* son of the devil, *you* **enemy** of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?”

Psalms 110:1–2 (NKJV)

- ¹ The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your **enemies** Your footstool.”
- ² The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.
Rule in the midst of Your **enemies!**

1 Corinthians 15:25–26 (NKJV)

²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.

So this enemy of God is the worst of the worst. The most hostile, the most violent, the most hateful. The most ill-willed. The one who desires the most destruction as possible. The one who desires your death and will do all he can to accomplish that death.

So how do we become and express that hostility, that hatred of God

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

dianoia: the mind, disposition, thought

Original Word: δίανοια, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: dianoia

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-an'-oy-ah)

Definition: the mind, disposition, thought

Usage: understanding, intellect, mind, insight.

1271 *diánoia* (from 1223 /*diá*, "thoroughly, from side-to-side," which intensifies 3539 /*noiéō*, "to use the mind," from 3563 /*noús*, "mind") – properly, movement from one side (of an issue) to the other to reach balanced-conclusions; full-orbed reasoning (= critical thinking), i.e. dialectical thinking that literally reaches "across to the other side" (of a matter).

1271 /*diánoia* ("critical thinking"), literally "thorough reasoning," incorporates both sides of a matter to reach a meaningful (personal) conclusion. Such "full-breadth reasoning" is essential to loving (25 /*agapáō*) the Lord and our neighbor (see Mk 12:30). It is also the instrument of self-destruction when exercised without God's light and power (Lk 1:51; Eph 2:3, 4:18; Col 1:21).

disposition n. — a natural or acquired habit, feeling, or characteristic tendency in a person or thing.

In your mind (τῇ διανοίᾳ [*tēi dianoiāi*]). Locative case. Διανοία [*Dianoia*] (δια, νοῦς [*dia, nous*]), mind, intent, purpose. Old word. It is always a tragedy to see men use their minds actively against God. **In your evil works** (ἐν τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς πονηροῖς [*en tois ergois tois ponērois*]). Hostile purpose finds natural expression in evil deeds.

Robertson, A. T. (1933). [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](#) (Col 1:21). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

Ephesians 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ having their **understanding** darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

Luke 1:51 (NKJV)

⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered *the* proud in the **imagination** of their hearts.

Romans 8:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by

wicked works, yet now He has
reconciled

Paul is saying that we were

1. Alienated by our wicked works
2. Enemies in our mindset by the production of evil works

The mind produces evil works and the evil works corrupt the mind. Both are true.

We are corrupt and dark in our minds and our sinful culture corrupts our minds.

As Lightfoot observes, “it is the mind of man, not the mind of God, which must undergo a change, that a reunion may be effected.

Abbott, T. K. (1909). *[A critical and exegetical commentary on the epistles to the Ephesians and to the Colossians](#)* (p. 225). New York: C. Scribner’s sons.

The evil mindset of men lead to the evil society we see which becomes a evil culture to corrupt believing minds

We see this in

Romans 1:21–24 (NKJV)

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Human philosophy of Godless men corrupt the minds of men and increase there hostility to God

Humanism

Secularism

Evolution

Pragmatism

Marxism

Liberalism

Atheism

Narcissism

etc. all being pumped into the minds of our children in these public godless government schools and universities.

That even our Christian Parents put there kids into to have there minds corrupted.

This is why we need to practice

Romans 12:2 (NKJV)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

This condition brings us under the condemnation fo God because of our sins of thought and death. And therefore deserving separation, wrath and death, not reconciliation

1. Separation

Isaiah 59:2 (NKJV)

² But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,

So that He will not hear.

2. Wrath

Romans 5:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

3. Death

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

²³ For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

James 1:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

So because of our evil mindset and evil deeds
We are in a bad position with of Hostile haters of
God and Alienated from Him, and there is nothing
we can do to change it. In fact there is No desire in
us to change it.
It is God who must act, or we will destroy ourselves.

1. The Makeup of the ones needing Reconciled

2. The Motivation to of God to Reconcile

The Motivation of God to Reconcile is very simple.
The Love of God for Sinners.
The Love of God for His enemies
The Love of God for those that Hate Him.

You might say, 'wait a minute, doesn't the Bible say that God hates the wicked in

Psalms 5:5 (NKJV)

You hate all workers of iniquity.

Yes, and God fury and wrath burns against the sinner and will burn forever in hell against the unrepentant sinner.

So

How can God Hate the wicked and Love the Wicked at the same time.

First, God can love all his enemies the same way he commands us to love our enemies.

It is a love that meets the need. It is not the same kind of love you have for your wife or your children.

So God can love his enemies by sending rain on the just and the unjust.

It is also important to know that God is my nature a Savior, A God of Love, A reconciling God.

So although he is Just and Holy and a wrathful God, He is also by nature a Saving God

One that actively reaches out to the sinner.

Exodus 34:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,.....

Psalm 106:21 (NKJV)

²¹ They forgot God their Savior,
Who had done great things in Egypt,

Isaiah 12:2 (NKJV)

² Behold, God *is* my salvation,

I will trust and not be afraid;
'For Yah, the Lord, *is* my strength and song;
He also has become my salvation.' ”

Isaiah 43:3 (NKJV)

³ For I *am* the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;
I gave Egypt for your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

Isaiah 43:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ I, *even I, am* the Lord,
And besides Me *there is* no savior.

Isaiah 45:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Truly You *are* God, who hide Yourself,
O God of Israel, the Savior!

Isaiah 45:21 (NKJV)

²¹
And *there is* no other God besides Me,
A just God and a Savior;
There is none besides Me.

1 Timothy 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

1 Timothy 2:3 (NKJV)

³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

Titus 1:3 (NKJV)

³ but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior

Titus 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Titus 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Titus 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

1 Timothy 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

He is the Savior of all men temporarily and physically

He is the reason they are alive now, and that they can enjoy life.

But he is especially the Savior of the the ones that believe, because they are eternally the saved by God

But He does not love all the same and to the same degree.

Theologians make the distinction between the general love of God for all his creation and

the redemptive love He has for those who will save.

Romans 9:13 (NKJV)

¹³ As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

Jacob was just as evil if not more than Esau, yet God set his love on his enemy Jacob

Agape love is not a love of move by emotion, it is a love of the will.

God chooses to love redemptively those he once hated and counted as an enemy.

This is why the love of God is so amazing... Unless you see the diamond of God’s love on the black velvet of God hatred of the wicked and the wrath of God’s justice for the sinner... You will never fully appreciate the love of God.

Its not that God loved us and hated our sin but rather we appeared reprehensible and loathsome and sinfully evil in his sight but still decided to love us with redeeming saving love.

Romans 5:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His

blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
¹⁰ 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.

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 John 4:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

Ephesians 2:1–8 (NKJV)

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

1 Timothy 1:12–16 (NKJV)

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, ¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was

exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Charles Spurgeon

The Lord loves you not to-day, Christian, because of anything you are doing, or being, or saying, or thinking, but he loves you still, because his great heart is full of love, and it runneth over to you.

He loves us much better than we love our children, for we often love them so badly that we bring them up to evil, and we tolerate them in sin. He loves us better than we love ourselves, for self-love it is that ruins us; but God's love it is that saves us, and lifts us up to heaven and to perfection.

True **reconciliation** requires God's forgiveness; it can occur only if the offended party is willing to forgive and remove the barrier sin creates. The sinner cannot remove that barrier, and so cannot reconcile himself to God. Only the Lord can effect **reconciliation** by choosing not to count