

Reconciliation is Your Ministry and Our Only Hope

I am saddened by the events we are witnessing and the intense pain of injustice that some of my close friends have experienced as a result of racism. I will never be able to fully understand the pain some of my friends have experienced, but Jesus does. He was a man of sorrows acquainted with grief and injustice. I take heart that God's Word speaks to this issue today. I want to encourage you to sit with the following passage of scripture in 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. This is not a simple solution; it is a spiritual solution.

*¹⁴For the **love of Christ controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might **no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.***

*¹⁶From now on, therefore, **we regard no one according to the flesh.** Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸**All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;** ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.** ²⁰Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.** ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Co 5:14–21)*

Really sit with these verses and allow God's Spirit to squeeze truth out of them and soak your soul. You cannot do this while you are driving. You will not taste the richness of these verses while you are at the gym. **Sit alone with God and His word in prayer and ask him to show you how He wants you to fulfill YOUR ministry of reconciliation through the gospel in this time.**

If you grew up in a Christian church, you are likely very familiar with verse 17. We love the thought of being a "new creation" with great new possibilities for joy and eternal life. However, if we ignore all the verses around verse 17, we will miss the point of being made new. **We are made new so that we can go and help others be made new.** You have been given the ministry of reconciliation! It is a universal ministry given to ALL who have been made new in Christ! IT IS INESCAPABLE.

Reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel! You who were far away were brought near by the blood of Jesus. **He travelled from Heaven to us to bring us to God so that we could travel great divides to others.** When we see ALL efforts of reconciliation as a gospel mission, we will understand that it is a spiritual mission that requires the power of God at work within us to heal division. Only the gospel can truly solve our cultural crisis...

YOU are an AMBASSADOR for Christ! How far will you have to travel? What discomfort will you need to endure? **Reconciliation is our mission; be controlled by the Love of Christ!** There is no other hope for our culture!

Heaven will be a beautiful place of many colors all worshipping as one!! I want some of that on earth!! "On earth as it is in Heaven!"