

The Forgotten Ministry – Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:14-18

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.

The Various Ministries in the Church:

- The five-fold ministries: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Shepherds, Teachers.
- Practical ministries: Feeding, Hospitality, Orphan Care etc.
- Other ministries: Music, Special Ministries etc.

You get to choose which ministry you want to be involved in – based on your skills and preferences.

The Missing Ministry:

- “God **gave us** the ministry of reconciliation” (v. 18b).
- That’s the ministry of everyone who is a believer
- That’s the missing ministry
- It is not optional, it is part of the job description of anyone who is “a new creation”
- Other ministries are optional and depend on your personal gifts and preferences

Etymology of ‘Reconciliation’

- Greek: root word *katallasso* meaning restoration to favour.
- Latin: prefix re- “back” + conciliare “bring together.”
- My definition: “re-link” after a “de-linking” situation.

WHY IS THIS MINISTRY MISSING IF IT IS SO POSITIVE AND BEAUTIFUL?

1. It’s easier to remain divided. In real life it’s cheaper to build a wall than to build a bridge.
- Reconciliation requires the cross, which many of us professing Christians are not willing to bear. I feel compassion for those of you who have finished the ExCom having strengthened your wall of hostility.
- Reconciliation requires courage, it is for the brave. It’s easier to be a coward and attack, judge, vent, or bleed on others.
- Reconciliation requires maturity, and many of us are happy to grow old and die without becoming mature... Who are our reconcilers today? Maturity means looking at the one who