

The Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

J. W. Pitts, Jr. - Minister
Woodland Park Church of Christ

- Paul tells us that God restores friendship or harmony with man through Jesus Christ
- He then tells us that he has given to **us** the “Ministry of reconciliation”
Calling people back to God
Getting people in harmony with God again

God Also Calls Us to Harmony With Each Other

Our response to God's grace is expressed through our response to each other.

Ephesians 4:31-32 NKJV

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. And be ye kind to one another, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Why Reconcile or Settle Relationships?

#1 Because of our witness to the world

John 13:34-35

When we can't get along with each other, we invalidate our faith to the world!

People Look at You and Me!


- How we treat our own church members
- How we treat our own sick
- How we treat our own dead
- How we treat our own husbands
- How we treat our own wives
- How we treat our own children
- How we handle dating relationships
- How we treat our seniors

Read 2 Corinthians 3:1-3 NKJV

- Paul ask the Corinthian church to validate his authority.
- He says in so many words, “I don’t need any letters of commendation to validate my apostleship

You are my credentials!

**Your Christian lives are my letters
of Recommendation!**



Paul says that what authenticates his apostleship is that the seed of God which he planted in them germinates by the Holy Spirit and changes their lives!

Credentials

- What makes me a good preacher?

Answer: What you do about my preaching

You are my credentials

- What makes good parents

Answer: What their children do as a result

Good children are their credentials

What Makes Jesus Christ the Savior?

Answer:

People actually are saved!

Remember, we are still free moral agents
We have choices whether or not to obey the Plan of
Salvation

When Unbelievers Witness

- Our division
- Our anger toward each other
- Our pettiness
- Our divorce rate
- Our inability to resolve differences

Are they drawn toward the church or pushed away?

#2 We Reconcile to Influence Future Generations

Christian families can be consumed by conflict

Financial conflict with each other, right/wrong side

Marital conflict with each other, right/wrong side

Racial conflict with each other, right/wrong side

The point is: if you don't pass on love and forgiveness,
you pass on something else!

Reconciled Christians Demonstrate The Power of Christ's Gospel

- Restoring harmony and friendship is at the very core of the Christian message
- Surgery on the body may send a different message from surgery on the soul
- Sewing up a physical wound will not send the message to the world that sewing up a spiritual wound would send (reconciling a church split or marriage)
- Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant and who we represent in that story (Matthew 18:23-35)

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins Acts 17:30

Confess Christ Acts 8:37

Be Baptized Acts 8:38