**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in Reconciliation**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 1:19-23**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to the ministry of Biblical reconciliation.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 5 aspects of the reconciliation of Christ to be modeled and that protect from false teaching.**

**Introduction:** In reconciliation, the sinner stands before God as an enemy, but becomes His friend

(**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**). In Colossians 1:20-23, Paul provides a concise view of reconciliation. The verb “katallasso” (to reconcile) means “to change” or “exchange.” When people or a person is changed from being at enmity with each other to being at peace, they are said to be reconciled. When Paul through the Scriptures speaks of reconciliation, then, it refers to the restoration of a broken relationship, to a completely restored relationship between God and man, and this is the model of reconciliation “between man and man.”

 The problem Paul is dealing with is that of the false teachers, who were teaching about various emanations of gods. From the higher to the lower, and that Jesus was just one of those emanations one must climb to get to God, in order to be reconciled. “Apokatallasso” means “Thoroughly or completely reconciled.”

[John MacArthur New Testament Commentary Colossians & Philemon, p.56]

**I. Christ is the provision of reconciliation. V.19**

**II. Christ is the plan of reconciliation. Vv.20-21**

**III. Christ is the promise of reconciliation. Vv.20b, 22a**

**IV. Christ is the perfection of reconciliation. V.22b**

**V. Christ is the proof of reconciliation. V.23**

**I. Christ is the provision of reconciliation. V.19**

 Jesus has come to have first place in everything. Paul drives home the point that Jesus is not merely another emanation from God.

 **Philippians 2:8-11** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross. **9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, **11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

 God was pleased that His “fullness” (Pleroma), the entirety of God’s being, dwells in Jesus Christ His Son. Christ reigns supreme over the visible world, the unseen world and the church.

 **John 1:1-2** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God.

 **John 1:16** And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.

**II. Christ is the plan of reconciliation. Vv.20-21**

 God was pleased to make this provision through Jesus Christ, because it is through Christ alone, that God the Father, would establish a right and restored relationship for all whom reconciliation is possible.

 God’s ultimate plan for the universe is to reconcile all things to Himself, through Jesus Christ. (**Genesis 1:31**), the fall affected mankind and all of creation. Sin destroyed the perfect creative harmony between creatures, and between all creation and the Creator. (**Romans 8:20-22; Isaiah 60:19-20**)

 **2 Corinthians 4:4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

 **Ephesians 2:2** 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,

 **Isaiah 11:6-9** "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. **7** The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

 **8** The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. **9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

 **Isaiah 65:25** The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD. **Isaiah 24:23** Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.

 **Isaiah 30:26** Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.

 **2 Peter 3:13** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

 **Revelation 21:1** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

**III. Christ is the promise of reconciliation. Vv.20b, 22a**

 A. The **benefits**

 The benefits of Christ’s atonement are applied only to the elect and the new creation in Revelation, those who come to saving faith in Jesus Christ alone!

 The blood here speaks metaphorically of Christ’s atonement, the bloody and violent death on the cross. This is illustrated in the Old Testament sacrificial system.

 **1 Peter 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

 **Hebrews 13:11-12** For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. **12** Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

 **John 10:17-18** "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. **18** "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

 The reconciliation of the believers from their past, foreshadows the ultimate reconciliation of the universe.

 B. The **Beneficiary**. V.21

 1. Those who were alienated. V.21a

 Paul explains the need for reconciliation to God by appealing to the Colossian believers spiritual/sinful condition before salvation. (appallotrioo) alliterated means “enstranged” “cut-off” or “separated.”

 **Ephesians 2:12-13** 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.

 2. Those who are enemies of God **mentally**. V.21b

 Corrupt thinking results in immoral behavior, which in turn produces more wrong thinking and further separation from God. Non-Christians are “cut-off” from God because of sin; no one is innocent enough, everyone therefore needs reconciliation provided by Christ alone.

 “Hostile or enemies in mind” (Echthros) could be translated “hateful.” Man is separated by condition, hateful of God by attitude.

 3. Those identified by **wicked** works. V.21c

 Sinners hate God and deny Him as the Sovereign, because they resent His Holy standards and commands because they want to engage in and protect their evil deeds, actions, attitudes, and activities. The willful love of sin! (**Romans 1:21-24**)

 **John 3:19-20** "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. **20** "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

 **Romans 8:7-8** 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.

 **Isaiah 59:2** But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you, So that He will not hear.

 **Hebrews 1:13** But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool "?

 **1 John 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

**IV. Christ is the perfection of reconciliation. V.22b**

 A. To present the reconciled holy and separated from sin and set apart to God.

 **2 Corinthians 11:2** For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ.

 **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.

 B. To present the reconciled blameless without blemish.

 **Jude 1:24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

 **1 Peter 1:19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

 C. To present the reconciled beyond **reproach**. V.21d

 That no one can bring a charge against that sticks. (**Romans 8:33**)

 **Revelation 12:10** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

**V. Christ is the proof of reconciliation. V.23**

 A. The 1st proof is perseverance in the **faith**. V.23a

 B. The 2nd proof is perseverance in the **hope** of the gospel. V.23b

 C. The 3rd proof is perseverance in the **truth** that is eternal. V.23c

 D. The 4th proof is perseverance in the **ministry** of faithful men. V.23d