

The Lego Christian A Study in Colossians

The Brick of Reconciliation

Paul in Colossians 1:21 uses the term reconcile. One definition of reconcile is found in the secular dictionary and defined in this way: "The reestablishment of cordial relations" a simpler way to say this is to become friends again. The bible dictionary gives this definition: "A change from enemy to friendship with God". In Colossians and other scriptures references we are going to examine why we need reconciliation, where reconciliation comes from and living out reconciliation in our daily walk with God.

1...Why we need reconciliation.

Read the following verses and describe what each verse says about humanities relationship to God without reconciliation.

Colossians 1:21 _____

Psalms 51:5 _____

Ecclesiastes 7:20 _____

John 3:19-20 _____

Romans 3:9-12 _____

Romans 3:23 _____

Romans 6:8 _____

Ephesians 2:11-12 _____

These verses have described humanity's conditions as the world stands before God not at some future date but right now. We are born with a sinful nature. Theologically we call this "Total Depravity" The simplest definition of this doctrine is: "There is nothing within human beings, in the heart, mind or soul that will make us righteous before God". (We will get into a deeper definition of total depravity at bible study and look at John Wesley's view of total depravity) Therefore because of our condition someone needed to act on our behalf to reconcile the human race to God.

2...Where reconciliation comes from.

What needs to happen to have friendship with God restored? What needs to happen to change from being an enemy with God into friendship with God? Read the passages below and fill in the blank with what is being used for reconciliation, who is doing the action and what must we do.

Not every verse will have all three sometimes only one or two are present in the verse.

Colossians 1:20-23 _____
Luke 24:4 _____
John 3:14-17 _____
II Corinthians 5:7-19 _____
Ephesians 2:13-19 _____
Hebrews 9:14 _____
Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

For reconciliation to happen forgiveness has taken place. Because of Christ's sacrificial atonement on the cross we have been forgiven and reconciled to God. To those who have been forgiven by God there is an important question we must ask ourselves. What do I do with the reconciliation and forgiveness I have received? The answer is simple. Go and be a friend to others and freely forgive.

3...Living out what we have received.

In the verse below what are the commands to us about forgiving others?

Matthew 5:23-24 _____
Matthew 18:21-22 _____
Luke 6:37 _____
Luke 17:3-4 _____
Ephesians 4:32 _____

Read this parable from Matthew 18:22-35

1...Why is it hard to forgive someone else?

2...What kind of witness do we have when we refuse to forgive?

3...Is forgiveness sometimes withheld because of a person's race, creed, and economic standing?

4...What does this parable say to your heart about forgiveness?