


*God's power in weakness comes about through being reconciled with God.*




Reconciliation: not only is this the heart of God, it is central to the Christian faith.




2 Corinthians 5:11-21


Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ...



We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ...



For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and 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. ...



From 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. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ...

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

### Reconciled to God

1. Negative reaction
2. Curious reaction
3. Anxious reaction
4. Indifferent reaction

### Reconciled to God

1. **Negative reaction...**

Verses 18-20: All this is from God, who through Christ **reconciled** us to himself and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**; that is, in Christ God was **reconciling** the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of **reconciliation**...We implore you on behalf of Christ, be **reconciled** to God.

Reconcile:

“to restore friendly relations between”

**Creation:** Important to realize the Bible starts with creation!

**Fall:** Sin as parasitic (Bible doesn't start with the Fall)

**Redemption:** Reconciliation is the heart of God

**New Creation:** Full restoration

*"But Esau ran to meet him and embraced him and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept." - Genesis 33:4*



Luke 15:20:  
But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.



Reconciled to God

1. Negative reaction
2. **Curious reaction...**

Verse 18: All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself

Verse 19: that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Colin Kruse: *"Wherever the language of reconciliation is found in the New Testament, God is always the subject of the reconciling activity. There is no hint that Christ is the gracious one who must overcome unwillingness on God's part to be reconciled with sinful humanity. It is God himself who initiates and effects the reconciliation through Christ."*

"n" curve versus the "u" curve

Reconciled to God

1. Negative reaction
2. Curious reaction
- 3. Anxious reaction...**

*How do I know that I have been reconciled with God?*

*What if I am not reconciled with God?*

Verse 21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.



Thin ice versus thick ice:

Thin ice with all the confidence in the world won't keep you from falling in.

Thick ice with all the uncertainty and fear won't ever change that fact that you will not fall in.

## Ted Witzig (Christian Counselor)

**Religious Scrupulosity:** Obsessions and compulsions containing religious themes, hypermorality, pathological doubt /worry about sin, and excessive religious behavior.

## Symptoms:

- Religious teachings
- Blasphemy/sacrilege
- Sex/immorality
- Violence/harm
- Clean/unclean (pure/impure)

**Intrusive thoughts** that shock or alarm the person: "Oh no, I think I just shouted blasphemous thoughts about God!"

**Shame and guilt:** "What kind of person am I if I had a thought like this?" This often leads to hiding these thoughts from others.

**Rumination:** "Am I truly at peace with God?" "What if I am proud?" "Did I just lie?"

The distress occurs due to the implications of the potential consequences of the obsessive thought.


## Faith, Doubt and Uncertainty:

Faith is not the absence of feeling uncertain; it is going forward in Christ through the uncertainty.

My faith rests on what Christ has done for me, not what I feel. (2 Cor 5:21!)


I can have faith and still feel uncertain. Mark 9:24: "I believe, help my unbelief!"

God loves me completely in Christ, even when my feelings are uncertain and clouded by doubt.



I can rest in the fact that God understands that I don't understand.

I can rest in God's finished work for me in Christ, not in my finished work to have certainty.




Feelings are not facts! My peace with God (being reconciled with God) is NOT based on my feelings. Rather, Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Therefore, I am at peace with God because of Jesus, whether my feelings agree or not.




Reconciled to God


1. Negative reaction
2. Curious reaction
3. Anxious reaction
- 4. Indifferent reaction...**




Verse 17: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.




Sam Storms: *"...our experience of (new creation) is a personal prelude to the corporate and cosmic dimensions of the new creation that will come when Christ does. Simply put, the glory of the age to come has impinged upon or broken into the present. We are re-born microcosms of the eschatological macrocosm!"...*




*New things have come: a new covenant (Heb 8:8), a new creation (Gal6:15), a new humanity (Eph2:15), a new name (Rev 3:12), a new city (Rev 21:2), as well as a new standing, a new power, a new hope, and a new destiny. ...*



*Resist the temptation to reduce (the Christian life) to a momentary existential crisis or a convenient religious enlightenment, neither of which yields the fruit of the Spirit and a passionate pursuit of Jesus Christ and his glory in all things. Behold! If you are truly in Christ you are a new creation. Behold! ...*



*There is no escaping the fact that Paul has in view a complete and pervasive restructuring of your life, your values, and your agenda for the future, as well as your identity as a redeemed image-bearer. The conditions, relationships, worldly perspectives, and carnal principles that once dominated your life are the "old things" that have "passed away." ...*



*Don't embrace the pernicious lie that life will never change or that sinful circumstances will always dominate your existence. The enemy would have you believe that spiritual growth is an elusive dream and the future is a dark and endless repetition of past failures. To that, Paul would say to you, "Behold! If you are in Christ you are a new creation!"*



**Reflection/Prayer: Reconciled to God**

1. Negative reaction
2. Curious reaction
3. Anxious reaction
4. Indifferent reaction