

Reconciliation: What's the big deal?

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Who You Were

- Once you were alienated from God

Who You Were

- What does alienation look like



Who You Were

- What does alienation look like?



Who You Were

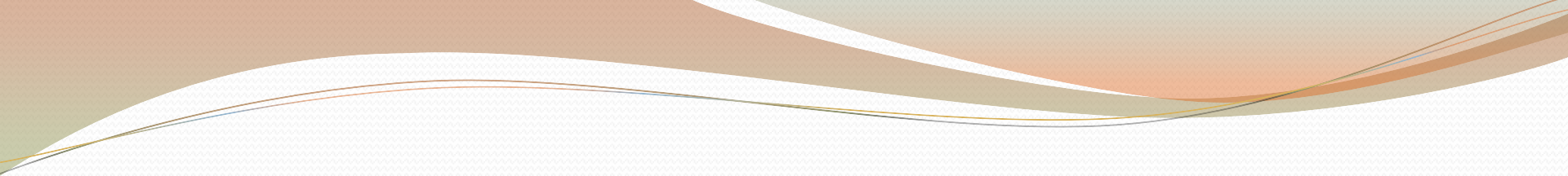
- Once you were alienated from God
 1. And were enemies in your minds
 - The way that we think
 - World view
 - Results in slavery rather than independence

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:15–18

Who You Were

- Once you were alienated from God
 1. And were enemies in your minds
 2. Because of your evil behavior
- What we do as the result of what we believe
- If we are wrong in what we believe we will, ultimately, act in ways that assert our presumed independence from God



¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Colossians 1:13

Who You Are

- But now he has RECONCILED you
 - By Christ's physical body
 - Through death
 - To present you
 - Holy in his sight
 - Without blemish
 - Free from accusation

Your Responsibility

- Continue in your faith
 - Is the emphasis on my belief or on the substance in which I believe?
 - How can I actively *continue*
 - Be established
 - Be firm
 - Be certain (Refuse to be moved)

Your Responsibility

- What is the essence of that which we must believe
 - The gospel
 - ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
 - It is for everyone

Let's Get Practical. . .

- Thoughts matter
- Do we do what we believe or do we believe what we do?
- Do we conduct ourselves in a manner that the gospel deserves?

So What?

- How have you experienced alienation in your life? How did it make you feel?
- How have you respond to Christ's offer of reconciliation?
- What are do doing today that will establish your spiritual foundation so that you will not be moved by exigencies (*a state of affairs that makes sudden demands*) of life?