

Objective Five: Reconciliation

Webster's (New College Dictionary): Reconcile –

1. To re-establish friendship between

Behold the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But **your iniquities have made a separation** between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear. {Isaiah 59:1-2}

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for **brothers to dwell together in unity!** {Psalm 133:1}

He Himself bore our sins in His body **on the cross**, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wound you were healed. {1 Peter 2:24}

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which **God prepared beforehand**, that we should walk in them. {Ephesians 2:8-10}

2. To settle or resolve, as a dispute

But God demonstrates his own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if **while we were enemies we were reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. {Romans 5:8-11}

My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. {1 John 2:1-3}

If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your **brother has something against you**, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. {Matthew 5:23-24}

3. To bring (oneself) to accept

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For **what the Law could not do**, weak as it was through the flesh, **God did**: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh. {Romans 8:1-4}

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, **in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach** – {Colossians 1:19-22}

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4. To make consistent or compatible

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been **made complete**, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. {Colossians 2:9-12}

Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the **old things passed away**; behold, new things have come! Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, **we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him**. {2 Cor 5:16-21}

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness. {Lamentations 3:22-23}

A story of reconciliation failure.....

A story of reconciliation success!