

Small Group Study

Christ as Reconciler

From the sermon series, "Christ in You"



The first page of Colossians in a manuscript from the 12th century. It gives its title as **προς κολοσσαείς**, "to the Colossians".

SCRIPTURE

Have volunteers read the following scriptures:

Colossians 1:19-23 (NIV)

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.

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

Icebreakers

Use the questions below to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. Tell us about a time when you "made up" with someone--when you, perhaps were enemies and became friends.
2. What is one thing you have given up in your life as a Christian?
3. Besides the Bible, what are your favorite three books?



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.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIV)

14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. 15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to say that Christ died for all (Romans 5:15)? How should this affect the way we look at non-believers?
2. How should this understanding affect the way that we live? Why can't we live for ourselves anymore (Romans 14:7-9; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21; 1 John 4:9)?
3. What does Paul mean by "from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view?" Why?
4. What has God done for us through Jesus Christ? What does reconciliation mean? Why did we need to be reconciled to God?
5. What has God given us besides reconciliation? Why do you think Paul describes it in this way? What is our responsibility (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)?
6. How does Paul say God accomplished this reconciliation? Why is Jesus the only way to salvation?
7. What has God given us so that we might accomplish this ministry of reconciliation (1 Peter 1:23-25)? What does this tell us about the importance of sharing the Word in evangelism?
8. What is an ambassador (2 Cor. 5:20)? What is the ambassador's job? How is being a witness like being an ambassador for Christ?
9. What else does Jesus do besides taking our sins? What does he make us (Romans 5:19)? How righteous did Paul consider himself (Philippians 3:9)? What do we gain in Christ?
10. Look at 2 Cor. 5:20-21 again, and read Isaiah 53:4-6. Discuss what it means to be completely righteous. How can a person ever become righteous? What did Jesus do for us on the cross? Is it accurate to say that he did more than pay for our sins? Explain.

God bless,

Roger Sodsod
Small Group Pastor, Vineyard Church
email: rsodsod@vineyardkcnorth.com