

Be Reconciled

Introduction:

- A. It is terrible to be alienated from a dear friend.
- B. But we have alienated our dearest Friend. - Isaiah 59:1-2
- C. How can we be reconciled to God?

I. What is "reconciliation"?

- A. "reconcile": "to renew friendship with one" (Thayer. 139)
- B. It implies there was once friendship. - Matthew 18:1-4
- C. But it also implies friendship has been severed. - Romans 3:23

II. What is God's part in reconciliation?

- A. He is the offended party. - Psalm 51:4
- B. His righteousness demands that wrath be executed upon the sinner. - Romans 1:18
- C. But His love demands that mercy be extended to the sinner. - Romans 5:6-8

III. That both these conditions be met, a mediator is essential.

- A. "mediator": "one who intervenes between two,... in order to make or restore peace and friendship" (Thayer. 401)
- B. Christ alone is qualified to be this Mediator. - Job 9:32-33; 1 Timothy 2:5
 - 1. He is able to speak on an equality with both parties. - Hebrews 1:8; 2:17
 - 2. He is thoroughly acquainted with the cause of alienation. - Matthew 11:27; Hebrews 4:5
- C. He removes the cause of alienation: sin. - Romans 5:10
- D. Reconciliation is in Him. - Ephesians 2:13-16

IV. What is our part in reconciliation?

- A. Since we are the offending parties, we must be reconciled to God, not Him to us. - 2 Corinthians 5:20
- B. We are reconciled to Him by the Word of reconciliation. - 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Acts 2:38; 10:36
- C. We will thus be His friends again. - cf. James 2:23

Conclusion:

- A. How wonderful to walk with God as His friend. - cf. Genesis 5:24
- B. God has done all He can do to reconcile us to Himself.
- C. Will you be reconciled to God? - 2 Corinthians 5:20