

“Enemy to Friend”

The Line #5 - Reconciliation

INTRODUCTION

Apart from God’s mercy, our relationship with him would be doomed. In our unregenerate, natural condition we are not only distant from God, we are in fact considered His enemy. There is not “gray area” for our relationship with the Almighty. Either we are with Him, or we are against Him. So how do we move from being God’s enemy to being called His friend? That requires reconciliation. In this study we will find our need for reconciliation, the source of reconciliation and the results of our being reconciled to God.

Ice Breaker (Optional):

Do you remember your very first “best friend”? How long ago did you last see that friend?

Study Questions (45 MIN)

Need for Reconciliation

Q1. Read Colossians 1:21; Romans 8:7; James 4:4

What do we learn from these verses about our condition before salvation, which caused us to be considered God’s enemy? How do you think most people would define “evil deeds”, and how is that different from God’s definition? Romans 8:7 tells us if our mind is “governed by the flesh” we are incapable of submitting to God, and James says that to befriend the world makes us an enemy of God. In what areas do you think you need to either submit yourself more to God or to distance yourself from the world and its influence?

Source and the Person of Reconciliation

Q2. Read Romans 5:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19a; Colossians 1:22

Although we may recognize our need to be reconciled to God we cannot do that ourselves. Who is it that accomplishes the restoration of our broken relationship (Romans 5:11, 2 Corinthians 5:18)? What role does Jesus play in our reconciliation to God (2 Corinthians 5:19a, Colossians 1:22)? What were some of the barriers you had to overcome in order to accept the reconciliation that God offered you? What was it that convinced you to accept it?

Results of Reconciliation

Q3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:19b-21; Acts 1:8

Now after we have been reconciled to God, He calls us to be Christ’s ambassadors. What is the good news we bring on Christ’s behalf (2 Corinthians 5:19 -21)? God does not have to use us to deliver this message, but He chooses to. Is there someone you know who needs to hear the good news of the Gospel? You have both the privilege and charge to offer them reconciliation with God.

Q4 Read John 15:13-15, Matthew 5:23-24

When Jesus laid down His life for us, he both reconciled us to God and called us God’s friend. In John 15:14, what does Jesus expect as a result of being God’s friend? What has he commanded us to do in Matthew 5:24 about those relationships that have been broken between us and other believers? If we allow hostility toward others to remain in us, we distance ourselves from God. Are there relationships that you need to reconcile? What steps can you take to be reconciled to those people?

Wrap-Up

By God’s great mercy, He offers to restore our broken relationship with Him. This can only be accomplished through the atoning death of Jesus that takes away our sins and allows us to be presented holy before God. As a result of our reconciliation God has given us a ministry of reconciliation. God calls us to make the first move toward being reconciled to our brother and sisters in the faith. And we are ambassadors of Christ, carrying the good news to the world that they can be transformed along with us from God’s enemy to His friend.

Memory Verse

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.
Romans 5:10 NLT

Prayer (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:

Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes)

Challenge:

Ask God to give you open doors and opportunities to be an ambassador for Christ to bring the good news of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:21 NIV - 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Romans 8:7 NIV - 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

James 4:4 NIV - 4 You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

Q2

Romans 5:11 NIV - 11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19a NIV - 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 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 people's sins against them. ...

Colossians 1:22 NIV - 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--

Q3

2 Corinthians 5:19b-21 NIV - 19 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.

Acts 1:8 NIV - 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Q4

John 15:13-15 ESV - 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you

Matthew 5:23-24 NIV - 23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Prayer Notes cont.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.