

Enemy to Friend (Reconciliation)

Day One – Read Romans 5:1-11; Colossians 1:21-22; Ephesians 2:14-22. What does it mean to you to know that while you were an enemy of God, God's desire was to be a friend to you and to have a relationship with you? Elements of friendship are association, loyalty and affection. Do you have those with God? What steps can you take in your relationship to be closer to Him?

Pray and ask God to give you a greater desire to spend time with Him. Ask God to remove the hindrances in your life so that nothing would interfere in your friendship with God.

Day Two – Read Matthew 5:23-24; Romans 12:18-21; Colossians 3:12-15; Ephesians 4:32. An important aspect to being reconciled to God is to be reconciled to one another. Is there anyone in your life where there is a broken relationship? What steps can you take to be reconciled to that person?

Pray and ask God to give you the strength you need to seek to begin the process of reconciliation with the person you are at odds with. Pray and ask Him to give you the courage you need, a greater sense of His presence, and the words to speak and the love to share with that person.

Day Three – Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Colossians 4:2-6; Matthew 28:18-20. Is there someone you know who needs to hear the good news of the Gospel? Is there someone the Lord has been laying on your heart to share the love of God with? Who could you be an "ambassador" to and tell them about the Lord?

Pray and ask God to give you a desire to share your faith with someone you know who needs to hear about the Lord and His love for them. Ask God to give you open doors and opportunities to be an ambassador for Christ. Ask God to prepare the heart of the person you will be sharing with.

New Life Lessons
July 1 & 2, 2017
Pastor Vince Llamas

Enemy to Friend (Reconciliation) The Line #5

Greek Meanings of Reconciliation:

Verb "katallasso" – change of hostility to a friendly relationship (Romans 5:10)

Noun "katallage" - restoration of a broken relationship (Romans 5:11)

To be reconciled is to be restored to friendship or harmony. (*Gotquestions.com*)

Doctrine of Reconciliation: After a breakdown of relationship between man and God through one man's sin, resulting in enmity between God and man, God provides through the sacrifice of His Son, the removal of this enmity, making it possible for individuals to recover that relationship through faith in Christ. (Curtis M. Omo, *Bibleacademyonline*)

Need for Reconciliation

Romans 5:10 (NLT) ¹⁰ 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.

Colossians 1:21 (NLT) ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

Ephesians 2:1-3 (MSG) 2 ¹⁻³ It wasn't so long ago that you were mired in that old stagnant life of sin. You let the world, which doesn't know the first thing about living, tell you how to live. You filled your lungs with polluted unbelief, and then exhaled disobedience. We all did it, all of us doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it, all of us in the same boat. It's a wonder God didn't lose his temper and do away with the whole lot of us.

Romans 3:23(NLT) ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Source of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT) ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Person of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:19a (NIV) ¹⁹ That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

Ephesians 2:16 (NLT) ¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

Colossians 1:22 (NLT) ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

Romans 5:11 (NLT) ¹¹ So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Message of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT) ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-21 (NLT) We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" ²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Romans 5:10b (NLT) ¹⁰ We will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

Results of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:19b-20a (NIV) 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.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

1 John 3:1 (NIV) See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

John 15:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.