

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but **rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.** – Jesus Christ

HOW I KNOW I AM BORN AGAIN

Part Five / Wednesday, December 21, 2016

RECONCILIATION

1
2 Review:

- 3
4 1. Conversion - a person calls upon God to turn him or her around and change his or her
5 life. Conversion begins with genuine repentance and faith.
6 2. Justification - this is the reversal of God's attitude toward a sinner because of the
7 sinner's new relationship with Christ. It is "just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned."
8 3. Regeneration - this is the new birth, the impartation of Christ's life within you, the
9 new nature and heart.
10 4. Sanctification - this is separation to God, purification from moral evil and
11 conformation to the image of Christ.
12

13 RECONCILIATION - to restore to friendship or harmony, to settle differences, to
submit to the higher authority.

14
15 2 Cor. 5:17-20

16 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away;*
17 *behold, all things are become new. [18] And all things are of God, who hath reconciled*
18 *us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; [19]*
19 *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their*
20 *trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. [20]*
21 *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we*
22 *pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

23
24 "At first God and man stood face to face with each other in the Garden of Eden. In
25 sinning, Adam turned his back upon God. Then God turned His back on Adam.
26 Christ's death has satisfied the demands of God and now God has again turned His face
27 toward man. It remains for man to turn round about and face God. Since God has been

1 reconciled by the death of His Son, man is now entreated to be reconciled to God.”

2 – Dr. Henry Thiessen (from his volume, Systematic Theology)

3
4 RECONCILIATION IS THE MINISTRY OF CHANGING COMPLETELY!

5
6 But....who changes? Not God for He cannot change. He is the same yesterday, today
7 and forever. He is immutable. No, it is the sinner who must change.

8
9 This change is possible only because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Col. 1:20-23

10 *It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to*
11 *him--all things in heaven and on earth--for Christ's death on the cross has made peace*
12 *with God for all by his blood. [21] This includes you who were once so far away from*
13 *God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him by your evil*
14 *thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends. [22] He has done*
15 *this through the death on the cross of his own human body, and now as a result Christ*
16 *has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are standing there before him*
17 *with nothing left against you--nothing left that he could even chide you for; [23] the*
18 *only condition is that you fully believe the Truth, standing in it steadfast and firm,*
19 *strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News that Jesus died for you, and never*
20 *shifting from trusting him to save you. This is the wonderful news that came to each of*
21 *you and is now spreading all over the world. And I, Paul, have the joy of telling it to*
22 *others.*

23
24 NOTE THIS STRONG REMINDER: IT IS VITAL THAT WE REALIZE IT IS NOT
25 GOD WHO IS RECONCILED FOR HE HAS NOT CHANGED.

26
27 You cannot mold God into your image. Reconciliation begins when we understand that
28 it is we who will be conformed into the image of Christ.

29
30 Our position has human beings of the world changed when Christ died on the cross.
31 Today....God has His arms outstretched to a lost world so that whosoever will may come!
32 The worst sinner in the world can come to God. NO ONE IN THE WORLD CAN
33 CHANGE GOD'S MIND ABOUT YOU - EXCEPT YOU!

34
35 It brings to mind the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery by the Pharisees:
36 John 8:1-11

37 *Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. [2] And early in the morning he came again*
38 *into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.*
39 *[3] And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and*
40 *when they had set her in the midst, [4] They say unto him, Master, this woman was*

1 *taken in adultery, in the very act. [5] Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such*
2 *should be stoned: but what sayest thou? [6] This they said, tempting him, that they*
3 *might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the*
4 *ground, as though he heard them not. [7] So when they continued asking him, he lifted*
5 *up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a*
6 *stone at her. [8] And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. [9] And they*
7 *which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one,*
8 *beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman*
9 *standing in the midst. [10] When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the*
10 *woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man*
11 *condemned thee? [11] She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I*
12 *condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

13
14 Do we know what Jesus wrote on the ground? A possible clue is found in Jeremiah
15 17:13: *O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they*
16 *that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord,*
17 *the fountain of living waters.*

18
19 It is possible that Jesus began to write the accusers' names and their own sins in the
20 sands. At any rate, they left the premises quickly. **JESUS WAS THE ONLY ONE**
21 **WHO COULD HAVE THROWN A STONE AT HER, AND HE DID NOT DO SO!**
22 Verse 11: **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more!**

23
24 Did Jesus just shut His eyes to the woman's transgression? No. To repeat from the text:
25 2 Cor. 5:19 *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not*
26 *imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of*
27 *reconciliation.* The Living Bible puts it like this: 2 Cor. 5:19 *For God was in Christ,*
28 *restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting*
29 *them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.*

30
31 **NO, JESUS DID NOT SHUT HIS EYES TO HER SIN; HE TOOK THAT SIN TO THE**
32 **CROSS!**

33
34 How does that affect you and me? 2 Cor. 5:20 *Now then we are ambassadors for*
35 *Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye*
36 *reconciled to God.* That's powerful! Because of this reconciliation, we have become
37 **AMBASSADORS FOR JESUS CHRIST.** Who is an ambassador? It is one who is a
38 minister of the highest rank accredited to a foreign government. That is how God now
39 considers you - His ambassador on this planet. No more estrangement....you are His
40 representative!

1 As ambassadors, we are working in foreign territory in this culture: Philip. 3:20 For
2 our conversation (our citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the
3 Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:
4

5 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING AN AMBASSADOR 6

7 1. An ambassador is sent only to a nation where your country has friendly relationships.
8

9 God is still dealing with this world through His followers, believers in Jesus.

10 But when God withdraws His ambassadors at the Rapture, this world has "had it."
11 God's judgment will begin.
12

13 2. Now an ambassador represents his sovereignhis authority over him. He does not
14 make up his or her own personal policies.
15

16 There are some believers who really think they can write their own rules, their own
17 policies. They are not reconciled to God.
18

- 19 • An ambassador KNOWS what his government wants and then faithfully represents
- 20 that view.
- 21 • An ambassador does not violate his government's dictates. He is under orders.
- 22 • An ambassador faithfully delivers his superior's message.
23

24 FINITO 25

26 That just means FINISHED! As Paul, I KNOW whom I have believed. I am
27 confident of my salvation. I have been

28 – Converted

29 – Justified

30 – Regenerated

31 – Sanctified

32 – and Reconciled to God!
33

34 I can sing: BLESSED ASSSURANCE....JESUS IS MINE!
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