

DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION

1. Definition:

- a. Reconciliation is the *removal* of the **Barrier** between God and man; it is the *establishment* of **Peace** between God and man. (2 Cor. 5:18; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20-22)
- b. While redemption is **sinward** and propitiation is **Godward**, reconciliation is **manward**. (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Rom. 3:25; 1 Jn. 2:1, 2; Heb. 2:17)

2. Vocabulary:

a. Greek-

- (1) καταλλαγή - katallage - (n.) reconciliation (Rom. 5:11; 11:15; II Cor. 5:18f)
- (2) καταλλάσσω - katallasso - (vb.) to reconcile (Rom. 5:10; 1 Cor. 7:11; II Cor. 5:18-20)
- (3) ἀποκαταλλάσσω - apokatallasso - (vb.) to reconcile *from* (Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20,22)
- (4) εἰρήνη - eirene - (n.) peace (Eph. 2:14; Col. 1:20)
- (5) ἔχθρα - echthra - (n.) enmity [a *technical word* for the **Barrier**] (James 4:4; Eph. 2:15, 16)
- (6) ἐχθρός - echthros - (n.) enemy [a *technical word* for **unbeliever**] (Rom. 5:10)
- (7) φραγμός - phragmos - (n.) fence, wall, hedge, **barrier** (Eph. 2:14)

b. Hebrew/Aramaic-

- (1) שָׁלוֹם - shalom - (Heb. n.) peace, prosperity (Isa. 26:12; 32:17; Micah 5:4)
- (2) שְׁלֵמִים - shelem - (Heb. n.) peace offering, thanksgiving offering (Levit. 3:1; 7:11)
- (3) שְׁלָמִים - shelam - (Aram. n.) peace, prosperity (Dan. 4:1; 6:25)

3. Reconciliation and the blood of Christ:

- a. The **“blood of Christ”** is a synonym for the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross and is the basis for **Reconciliation** / **“Peace with God”**. (Col. 1:19-22; Eph. 2:13, 14)
- b. We who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ have been reconciled to God through **“His death on the cross”**. (Rom. 5:11; 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Eph. 2:16; cf. Heb. 9:28; 10:10, 12, 14)

4. Reconciliation and mankind:

- a. Unregenerate mankind is regarded as the **“enemy of God”**. (Rom. 5:10a; Col. 1:21; cf. Phil. 3:18)

- b. “...*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*” (Rom. 5:8b, 10)
5. Peace is a synonym for reconciliation:
Reconciliation finds man as the enemy of God, but the saving work of Christ on the cross establishes “*peace*”. (Eph. 2:14, 15; cf. 2:16; Col. 1:20; Isa. 26:12; 32:17)
6. Reconciliation is portrayed in the Levitical offerings:
The “**Peace Offerings**” found in Exodus and in Leviticus beginning in chapter 3 depict the Doctrine of Reconciliation, that is, Christ’s removal of the Barrier between God and man. (Ex. 20:24; 24:5; Levit. 3:1, 3, 6, 9; 7:11-38; 8:15)
7. The person or agent of reconciliation or peace is the Lord Jesus Christ:
a. “*For He Himself is our peace...*” (Eph. 2:14; cf. Jn. 14:27; 16:33; 20:19)
b. Christ is the basis of all true **peace in life**. (Col. 3:15; Phil. 4:7; cf. Rom. 8:2, 6)
8. The message of reconciliation is the gospel of peace:
a. “*The word which He [God the Father] sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He [Jesus Christ] is Lord of all) -*” (Acts 10:36)
b. “*...and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;*” (Eph. 6:15; Isa. 52:7)
c. “*...and He [God the Father] gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*” (2 Cor. 5:18)
d. “*...and He [God the Father] has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*” (2 Cor. 5:19)
9. The prophecy of reconciliation:
“*Lord, Thou wilt establish peace for us...*” (Isa. 26:12a; 32:17; 57:19-21; cf. Eph. 2:17, 18)
10. The mechanics of Reconciliation (The removal of the **Barrier**)
a. The problem of **Sins** [Adam’s *original sin* (A.O.S.) and all other *personal sins* (P.S.)] (Rom. 5:12; 15-20; Eph. 2:1; and Isa. 64:6b; Rom. 3:23, 19; 1 Jn. 3:4):
1. It is removed by **Unlimited Atonement** [“*for all men*”]. (2 Cor. 5:14, 15; 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 Tim. 2:6; 4:10; Titus 2:11; Heb. 2:9; 2 Pet. 2:1; 1 John 2:2)
2. It is paid for by **Redemption** [“*for all sins*”]. (Psa. 34:22; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19; Gal. 3:13; 1 Jn. 1:7; 3:5; Rev. 1:5c)
b. The problem of the **Penalty of Sins** [*condemnation* and resulting *spiritual death* from A.O.S. demonstrated by P.S.] (Rom. 5:12; 6:23a) is removed by **Expiation** [“*for all time*”]. (Psa. 22:1-6; Eph. 2:15, 16; Col. 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:19; Heb. 9:28; 10:10, 12, 14)
c. The problem of the **Power of Sin** [the domination of the *nature of sin* or the *law of sin*, that is, the *old sin nature* (O.S.N.)] (Eph. 2:3; Rom. 6:6; 8:2b) is removed by **Redemption**. (Gal. 5:1,13; Rom. 6:6, 7, 13-15, 22; 8:2-4, 12)

- d. The problem of **Physical Birth** (Gen. 2:17; cf. Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1) is solved by **Regeneration**. [*the new birth*] (John 3:1-18; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:23)
- e. The problem of **Relative Righteousness** [*human righteousness*] (Isa. 64:6a; Rom. 9:30-33):
 - 1. It is replaced by the **Imputation of God's Righteousness** (Rom. 3:22; 9:30; Rom. 10:10; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 10:14)
 - 2. It is declared to be **Justification**. (Rom. 4:1-5, 25; 5:1, 9; 8:30; Gal. 2:16; Gal. 3:11; Titus 3:7)
- f. The problem of the **Character of God** (Isa. 46:9b; cf. 64:6b; Rom. 8:8; 1 Tim. 6:16a; 1 Jn. 1:5) is resolved by **Propitiation**. (Rom. 3:22-26; Heb. 2:17; 1 Jn. 2:2)
- g. The problem of our **Position in Adam** (1 Cor. 15:22a) is solved by **Positional Sanctification** [identification and *union with Christ* by the *baptism of the Holy Spirit*]. (1 Cor. 15:22b; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:3-6; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:13)