

The New Testament Church  
Compassion #2: Reconciliation  
Pastor Paul Jehle - November 13, 2022  
2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:14-21

I We have compassion for one another already in our spirit if we are believers

- A. Positional and experiential truth – we are in the spirit, now we must *walk there*
  - 1. Eph. 1:3; Ps. 103:4 – *we are blessed and crowned with... compassion (mercy)*
  - 2. Romans 6:11 – *we reckon ourselves to be dead to sin and alive to who we are*
- B. How did God reconcile us to Himself? (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:18; Eph. 2:13-16)
  - 1. Reconcile; *to change, exchange* – He died in our place - “*from enmity to friendship*”
  - 2. Wall that separates us from God is sin (enmity) – “*deep-rooted hatred*” for God’s law
- C. The enmity against God produces blindness to one another – creating offenses
  - 1. *Scandalon* – a trap, impediment, causing one to stumble and be offended
  - 2. *Proskomma* – an obstacle, causing one to sin in their soul – an offense

II How God reconciles us in Christ is how we reconcile with one another - 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:14-21

- A. God’s standard for walking with one another – the last resort is to separate
  - 1. Mt. 10:34 - Jesus, *I did not come to bring peace but a sword... - the truth can separate*
  - 2. Pr. 16:32 – *slow to anger better than mighty... who rules his spirit than takes a city.*
  - 3. Eph. 4:15 – *speak the truth in love – truth is to be clothed in an attitude of love*
  - 4. 1<sup>st</sup> Pt 4:8; Pr. 10:12 – *fervent love for one another... ‘love covers a multitude of sins’”*
- B. Love can help us avoid giving and receiving unnecessary offenses with one another
  - 1. Mt. 18:7 Jesus, *offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes*
    - a. Unnecessary offenses come when we hurt others by our attitude, words, etc.
    - b. We are to learn *not to give offense by our attitude or spirit of criticism (negativity)*
    - c. James 3:17 - our words are to be “*pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy, and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy* (easily received)
    - d. Death and life are in the power of the tongue – Proverbs 18:21
  - 2. Pr. 19:11 – *makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense* (ESV)
    - a. James 1:19 - “*be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*”
    - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 13:5 – *love... is not provoked*” – Agape does not assume the worst motive
- C. So how do we reconcile with one another and not remain offended?
  - 1. v. 14 - *the love of Christ compels us to reconcile with one another!*
  - 2. v. 15 – we now no longer live for ourselves – **but to Him** – the key to reconciliation
  - 3. v. 16 – we focus on **knowing each other “in the spirit”** and not “in the flesh”
    - a. We don’t know Christ after the flesh (He is risen), we know Him spiritually
    - b. We need to see one another in the spirit – Christ in each other – eternal perspective
  - 4. v. 17 – any who are **in Christ are new creations** – always becoming new!
    - a. What is passed away is past tense, becoming new is present – *in transition*
    - b. **Look for the silver lining, the positive growth**, and focus on that, not on the old
  - 5. v. 18-21 – because Christ has reconciled us, we have a *ministry* of reconciliation
    - a. God did not impute our sins to us again... neither should we impute them to others
    - b. Pr. 17:9 - *covers a transgression seeks love.. repeats a matter separates friends.*
    - c. Psalm 133 – a benefit of walking in harmony is **His presence** (Mt. 18:20)
    - d. John 17:21 – the fruit of unity is **the recognition of who Jesus is** in the world