

DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION

July, 1981

- I. Reconciliation is a Phase 1 (salvation) doctrine emphasizing the removal of the barrier between God and man that resulted from the fall. Eph.2:14-17 "*For He Himself is our peace (reconciliation) who made both parties one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh (Phase 2) the enmity, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself (positional truth) He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them (potential positive volition) both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. And He came (incarnation) and preached peace (Doctrine of Reconciliation) to you who were far away (gentiles outside the Mosaic Covenant), and peace to those who were near (Jews)."*
- II. The concept of reconciliation.
 - A. In reconciliation, mankind is viewed as the enemy of God, Rom.5:10 "*For if while we were enemies (ἐχθρός, echthros) we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son.*"
 - B. The barrier between God and man is called "enmity" (ἐχθρά, echthra), Eph.2:15,16.
 - C. The removal of the barrier is known Biblically as "reconciliation", 2Cor.5:18; Eph.2:16; Col.1:20,21.
- III. Greek vocabulary.
 - A. Noun, καταλλαγή, katallage: reconciliation.
 - B. Verb, καταλλάσσω, katallasso: to reconcile.
 - C. Verb, ἀποκαταλλάσσω, apokatallasso: to reconcile.
 - D. Noun, εἰρήνη, eirene: peace (Phase 1 context).
 - E. Noun, ἔχθρα, echthra: enmity, a technical word for the barrier.
 - F. Noun, ἐχθρός, echthros: enemy.
- IV. The doctrine of reconciliation was portrayed in the Old Testament through the peace offerings, Lev.3; 6:30; 7:37,38; 8:15.
- V. The basis of reconciliation is the Cross, Eph.2:16 "*and might reconcile them both to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity*"; Col.1:20.
- VI. The person of reconciliation is Jesus Christ, 2Cor.5:18,19.
- VII. The mechanics of reconciliation involves the removal of the barrier and faith in Christ.
 - A. The barrier consisted of personal sins, Rom.3:23.
 - B. Christ's death for the sins of all men removed this barrier, 1Jn.2:2.
 - C. With the barrier removed, what stands between God and man is Christ, who removed it, Jn.3:18; 10:9; 14:6.
 - D. Acceptance of the work of Christ on the Cross (faith in Christ) secures reconciliation for the individual, Jn.3:16,18; cp. 2Cor.5:19a; Col.1:20.
- VIII. The ministry of reconciliation, 2Cor.5:18-20a "*Now all things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation ...therefore we are ambassadors for Christ.*"
- IX. The message of reconciliation is the gospel, 2Cor.5:19 "*and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*"
- X. The challenge of reconciliation is Phase 2 reconciliation, wherein the believer must respond to God's initiative and reconcile himself to God by isolating his STA (sinful trend of Adam) and acclimating to doctrine in Phase 2, 2Cor.5:20b "*be reconciled to God.*"

Reviewed: March 8, 1987