Daily Devotion #63

Ministry of Reconciliation

***2 Corinthians 5:18-19 (NASB)*** *18  “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19  namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation*.”

Reconciliation is a huge subject right now. Our nation is still in the throes of a pandemic and all that it meant for people across the world, and now reconciliation has taken the front seat. I guess you could call it the latest buzz word. But that makes it sound like something that is faddish. The better way to describe reconciliation is that it is a Biblical word.

One of the hardest things for the human heart to do is to let down its defenses and allow God to soften and humble it. Sin has so devastated our souls that we struggle with people and what they look like or where they are from our how they speak and with just about everything in between. Whether it is over a sports figure or a favorite team or the best political party to run the country or the best flavor of ice cream – the human heart struggles with humility.

All these things, and many more, create division among people. But the division is not really over skin color or the externals of life. The division is because man is unwilling to see others as human beings - people, people who live life just like anyone else. The Word of God tells us that all are created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26) In fact, Jesus came to die for the sins of the world and to reconcile us to the Father. (John 3:16-17) The word reconcile means to reestablish proper relationships after they have been disturbed or disrupted. If you understand what the Bible teaches about man and his relationship to God, you will see that our sin caused and causes us to have our relationship with Him disrupted.

It was sin from the beginning that separated us from our Creator. (Genesis 3) And sin has passed down to every human being since then. (Romans 3:23) No man, speaking generically, is free from sin. Everyone who has been born is consumed by sin. Sin that separated us from God. The word sin is an archer’s term, it means to miss the mark. Each of us has missed the mark or bullseye of holiness that God demands. (1 Peter 1:16) Therefore we have a broken relationship with God.

But God loves His creation, all of us, and made a way for us to be reconciled to Himself. That’s what the Apostle Paul is talking about in this verse. It was God who came to reestablish a right relationship with us and Himself as He intended in the beginning. (Genesis 1-2) That’s why Christ came. He came as God in the flesh to be our Reconciler between us and the Father. And the truth is, if He had not come, we would all be hopelessly lost and on our way to hell. (Romans 6:23) God’s righteous demands are that we be perfect as He is perfect or else we will not see Him. Through our Lord and Savior, we are reconciled to the Father by acknowledging our sinfulness and surrendering ourselves to His love and desire to make us right with Him once again. (Romans 10:9)

Because of God’s willingness to reconcile us to Himself, He calls us to also be reconcilers with each other. Many of you have experienced great challenges of all sorts with people in your life. Often those relationships remain strained and incomplete and terribly challenging. Too often, separation in that relationship is the result.

But God’s message is that we, too, are to be reconcilers with those whom our relationship has been disrupted if for no other reason than that is what He did for each of us. No matter who the person is with whom you have had a disrupted relationship, seek God and do all you can to reconcile with that person. It may be someone of a different color or nationality. It may be a neighbor or coworker. It may be a family member. Let reconciliation be the new Bible word for the remainder of your life and not just a buzz word.