

Through Christ: Our Mediator

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

I. The Object of Reconciliation: Us!

A. All God/ All Man

- "the Fullness of God"
- Jesus was 100% God and 100% man

B. "Through him (Jesus) to reconcile to himself (GOD) all things"

- The reconciliation of the Gospel is always initiated BY God TO Us
- "and you" vs 21

GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU HAS NEVER WAVERED THROUGHOUT ALL ETERNITY

- "For God so LOVED the world" ... and it's always been that way. Jesus didn't change God's heart from wrath to love.

II. The Need for Reconciliation: Separation

- We who were once completely separated, proven both in thought and action

1. Alienated & Hostile in Mind
estranged, an enemy with deep rooted hatred
2. Doing Evil Deeds:
pain-ridden and wicked

- The payment for Sin is death

"For the wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23a)

22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

III. The Medium for Reconciliation: The Cross

"he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death" (vs 22)

- Our penalty was paid for by Christ on the Cross

"but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
(Rom 6:23b)

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all"
(Rom 8:32)

IV. The Aim of Reconciliation: Peace

"making peace by the blood of his cross." vs 20

SHALOM: More than the absence of noise or conflict

: the restoration and wholeness of the intended and right relationship
with God that abolishes the barrier that has separated us.

SHALOM REFLECTS THE WHOLENESS, COMPLETENESS, AND TOGETHERNESS
THAT GOD INTENDED AND OUR HEARTS DESIRE

V. The Result of Reconciliation: New Identity

"in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him" vs 22

-in order to present you (as opposed to us making ourselves)

1. **holy**: set apart and consecrated by the Lord rather than alienated by our sin
2. **blameless**: unmarred from the affects of sin rather than hostile in our minds
3. **above reproach**: innocent under scrutiny rather than living out evil deeds

VI. The Response to Reconciliation: Hope

A. *"You continue in THE faith":*

- a. steady
- b. steadfast

B. *"not shifting from the HOPE of the Gospel"*

1. *that you heard*
2. *which has been proclaimed*
3. *of which I (Paul) became a minister (a servant)*

THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL
PROVIDES, PROCLAIMS, AND PROMISES.
IT BRINGS LASTING PEACE,
AN ABUNDANCE OF GRACE,
AND FULLNESS OF LIFE.

1. In what "good" things am I currently tempted to place my Hope?
2. How is the Hope of the Gospel:
 - a. providing lasting peace in my life?
 - b. proclaiming abundant grace in my life?
 - c. promising fullness in my life:?