

RECONCILIATION: *New Relation*

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.” (Colossians 1:21-22)

How do you imagine the relationship of God with Adam and Eve after they sinned against God and disobeyed Him? Your answer can be that God is displeased with this couple. Or, that God is angry with this family. Or, God is drawing Himself away from the people. In regard to Adam and Eve maybe they are feeling guilty, they are ashamed of themselves, or they are contrite and repenting from their sins. These are all possible and true. But the word of God describes the actual state of the relation between God and Adam with his wife and family, as they are enemies. You may not agree because you know that God is a God of love, He is compassionate and forgiving. Yes, but He is Holy and just. After Adam and Eve sinned and God dismissed them from the Garden of Eden, God and man became enemies:

1. Genesis 3:16

To the woman He said, “I will greatly increase your pains in child bearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

2. Genesis 3:17-19

To Adam He said, “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

3. Genesis 3:22

And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

When man sinned he became an enemy to God. He lost all the privileges of easy living. The safe and perfect way of God-dependent living was changed into difficult, insecure human or self-dependent living. His life became hard, without hope or future. He was driven away from the privileges that God had provided them as a family. After Adam and Eve sinned, the condition of pain, toil, hard labour and enemy relation spontaneously began affecting and extended to every people from generation to generation. Man’s broken relationship with God also initiated and perpetuated the broken relationships of all humankind. Bad attitudes had replaced the attitude of love, mercy, compassion and brotherly kindness. Selfishness, covetousness, strife, anger, fights, vengeance and all evil thoughts and acts became prominent; clashes among brothers and sisters, rebellion of children to parents, separation of husband and wife, broken homes and families. Cain killed Abel, Hagar despised Sarah, Ismael mocked Isaac, Jacob’s children hated their brother Joseph and they conspired to kill him. From Adam’s generation enmity went on and on. These acts were not the cause of God and human separation, but they were manifestation of the big gap between God and man; the gap caused by Adam’s initial sin of disobedience.

Generally, man is sinful and God is Holy. It is impossible to bring together the guilty human with all the sinful acts he is doing and the Holy God with all His righteousness and splendid glory. Likewise, no human can stand free from accusation in front of God’s throne; he will be judged for his every evil act.

But God so loved all men and women. Thus, He reached them again and opened the way to reconciliation through His son, Jesus Christ. ***“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*** The hatred between man and God became peace through the blood of Jesus on the cross. Jesus paid for the sin of human. He took the punishment of death that man deserves for his sin. Jesus’ physical body, by death on the cross, was the way for human’s debt to be cancelled. Jesus became the mediator of reconciliation between man and God. Up till now, Jesus has the only way to present those who believe or have faith in Him as holy and without blemish in the sight of God, free from accusations when they stand in front of the throne on the Day of Judgment. The reconciliation ministry of Jesus Christ through His physical death brings:

1. **Eternity:** That human will gain eternal life and live with God forever.
2. **Perfection:** That human endeavor for perfect image of holiness, to live a life away from immorality, to live with peace and love with everyone, to live away from envy and jealousy, and away from the acts of sinful nature will be achieved. The endeavor for perfection does not depend on man’s effort but after believing in Jesus, God starts to change or sanctify man to the perfect image of holiness, humility and humbleness, with good measure of love. God arms the believer with patience, self-control and perseverance to enable him to escape the curse of the ground where he toils.
3. **Relation:** The new relation between man and God is passed through every human. ***“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” (Ephesians 2:14)*** Once we have the new relation with God we will also give love and peace to everybody. Broken relations will be restored and damaged bonds will be united again. We will have forgiveness to those who are against us and we will treat them gently having the grace of forgiveness as Jesus forgave even those who crucified Him. ***“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)***

My dear and beloved, this is the fact: Your broken relation with others, to friends, relatives, family or spouse, will only be restored or renewed if you reconcile first to God. If you are still like Adam; away from God outside the paradise, you have now the chance to enter the gate through Christ Jesus as you pray from your heart:

My Prayer: *“Father God in Heaven, forgive me my sins. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for me to be reconciled to You and to other people. Today, I give my life to You, Jesus. Change me and renew me by the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me to be reconciled with other people around me. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name.” Amen.*