

Theme: We were once alienated from God by our sin, but Christ has provided reconciliation for all who believe in Him through the Gospel.

I. Intro – Van Halen - Alienation

- A. Van Halen very successful rock band
- B. Stormy relationships in the band
- C. Rock And Roll Hall induction - how would they handle it?
- D. Only two ex-members came!
- E. Alienation and hatred can run deep!
- F. What about us and god? How can this be resolved?

II. The Need for Reconciliation

- A. We were alienated from God
 - 1. We were alienated from God (v21)
 - 2. We were hostile to God in thought (v21)
 - 3. Our hostility produced evil deeds (v21)
 - a. NIV - because of your evil deeds
 - b. Possible but unlikely here
 - c. Evil deeds are the fruit of hostility
- B. We were completely alienated from God
 - 1. We were alienated from God relationally
 - 2. We were hostile to God in thought
 - 3. We were hostile to God in evil actions
 - 4. Hostile and alienated inside and out

III. The Accomplishment of Reconciliation

- A. But now - amazing thought! (NIV)
 - 1. We should expect nothing other than punishment
 - 2. But now - the great reversal! (v22 NIV)
- B. Reconciliation worked by Christ
 - 1. Reconciled - removal of hostility (v22)
 - a. Reconcile - kill hostility (Eph 2:16)
 - b. Reconcile - make peace (Col 1:20)
 - 2. Reconciled by Christ (v22)
 - a. Greeks said God was object of reconciliation
 - b. We had to appease Him - He would not help
 - c. But Christ has worked reconciliation for us!
 - d. Col 1:20 - Christ reconciles!
 - 3. Reconciled in Christ's flesh by death (v22)
 - a. Emphatic - his body of flesh
 - b. The Gnostics are wrong - flesh brings salvation!
 - c. Speaking of his death on the cross
 - d. Col 1:20 - reconciled by blood on cross
 - e. Gnostics then and now hate this idea!
- C. People hate this idea
 - 1. We want to work our own reconciliation
 - 2. We hate the idea of Christ's physical death

3. This seems obscene to many - then and now
4. But it is salvation!!!!

IV. The Purpose of Reconciliation

- A. Purpose - to present us blameless
 1. In order to - this is the purpose (v22)
 2. Present us holy, blameless, above reproach (v22)
 - a. Present, holy, blameless sometimes used of sacrifice
 - b. But all terms used in legal contexts
 - c. Speaking of return of Christ, final judgment
 - d. Ephesians 1:4; 5:27 - same words, ideas
- B. We will be received as pure, holy bride - not enemies!

V. The Application of Reconciliation

- A. Reconciled...if - the need for faith (vv21-23)
 1. vv21-23 is all one long sentence
 2. Reconciled - if indeed continue in the faith
 3. There must be this application
- B. Unbelievers - look to Christ in faith
 1. Do you accept God's diagnosis of your problem?
 - a. Do you recognize you are alienated from God?
 - b. Do you recognize your evil thoughts & deeds?
 2. Do you accept God's terms of peace in Christ?

- a. Do you recognize Christ worked reconciliation?
- b. Do you recognize this required His death in our place?
- c. Do you accept this peace offered to you?
 1. If yes - welcome to life - you have nothing to fear
 2. If no - you continue as God's enemy - by your choice
- C. Believers - continue in the faith/Gospel
 1. Are we continuing in THE faith - the Gospel? (v23)
 2. Are we resisting the temptation to move elsewhere?
 - a. Continue, stable, steadfast, not shifting (v23)
 - b. The Gospel does not change - am I changing it?
 3. Are we clinging to the one unchanging Gospel?
 - a. Same Gospel is true for all times and places (v23)
 - b. We must not add to or subtract from it
 - c. Am I giving in to pressure that it no longer applies?
 - d. Am I giving in to pressure to accept all beliefs equally?
 4. Do we realize we are but servants of the Gospel?
 - a. Paul was just a servant of the Gospel (v23)
 - b. Do I view myself as servant or master of the Gospel?
 - c. We have a charge - we must be faithful.
- D. The Lord's Supper - Receiving Reconciliation Anew

A Glorious Reconciliation in Christ

Colossians 1:21-23 (ESV)
 March 18, 2012
 Communion
 Numbers 6:24-26

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 1:22 (NIV)

and might **reconcile** us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby **killing the hostility**.
Ephesians 2:16

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be **holy and blameless before him**.
Ephesians 1:4

so that he might **present** the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be **holy and without blemish**.
Ephesians 5:27