

Be Reformed – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

Be Charismatic – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

Be Community – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

Be Missional – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

Colossians 1:21-23

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 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.

Study Guide 22 January 2012 The Supremacy of Christ in Reconciliation



Summary

This sermon will look at the supreme work of Christ in reconciling man to God.

Due to Adam's sin, mankind has inherited a state of enmity before God. There is a dire need for mankind to be reconciled to God – for our status as enemies to be removed and for us to be brought back to the Father.

The act of reconciliation is initiated by God himself in sending his son Jesus to die a sinner's death, even though he was sinless. Jesus became our substitute, thereby removing the enmity between God and man.

The purpose of this reconciliation with God is to present us holy, blameless and above reproach before God. Not only is our status as enemies removed, but holy righteousness is given to us through faith. In the holiness of Christ, we can now commune with God and know him.

The encouragement of reconciliation is to continue steadfastly in the faith whilst holding to the hope of the gospel. It is this gospel of reconciliation that is the anchor for our faith. This is an encouragement to patiently persevere in the faith as those who have been reconciled to God in Christ.

Key points

Not only are we no longer God's enemies, we are now as precious to Him as His Son Jesus.

Questions

>> How are we to live in light of this reconciliation to God?

>> How does being reconciled to God affect our relations with others?

>> How do we / should we pursue holiness in our own lives?

>> What does it mean to 'hold to the gospel without shifting' (Col 1:23)?

Final thoughts

The supreme work of Christ in reconciling us to God makes us, the enemies of God, friends of God.