

Jars of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:9-6:2

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“Reconciliation is the establishment of harmony and peace between enemies. Enemies are said to be reconciled when their hostility ceases and mutual love binds them together.”

- The Devil declared war with God (Isaiah 14:12-15)
 - Rejecting God’s sovereignty
 - Rejecting God’s exclusivity
- The world declared war with God (Genesis 3:1-10)
 - Refusing God’s wonders
 - Refusing God’s Word
 - Refusing God’s ways
 - Refusing God’s warnings
- The angels declared peace with men (Luke 2:13-14)
- The cross declared peace with men (Colossians 1:19-22)

“Before God could declare salvation to sinners, it was necessary for Jesus Christ to enter into a conflict with Satan, to do battle with him, to come out of that battle as the victor, and to declare that Satan was a vanquished foe.” (Dwight Pentecost)

“Christ partook of humanity, and through His substitutionary death He defeated Satan...” (Paul Enns)

The war began in Heaven has continued here on earth since the Garden of Eden. The only means of peace was for God to send His son to reconcile us to himself.

- I. Pleasing God should be our primary focus (5:9-10)
- II. Christ’s love should be our primary motivation (5:11-15)
- III. Reconciliation should be our primary ministry (5:16-6:2)
 - A. Helping people find peace with God
 - B. Helping people find peace with people

Having experienced reconciliation, we are called to be people of reconciliation. (Romans 12:14-21)

So What?

- Have you personally acknowledged and accepted God’s offer of reconciliation?

“I am ready to flee from myself because of my abominations; yet thou dost not abhor me but hast devised means for my return to thee, and that, by thy Son who died to give me life.” (The Valley of Vision)

- Have you personally acknowledged and accepted God’s call to reconciliation?
 - People and God
 - People and People