

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Great God, Great in Power, These are the Names of God, Made, Blessed Assurance

WELCOME

Reconciled. Briefly share your personal story of how you were able to reconcile a relationship.

WORD

COLOSSIANS 1:19–20

¹⁹For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

WHY DO WE NEED RECONCILIATION?

Whenever we look at the news, we often read about acts of terrorism, wars, bombings, and killings. All of which are causing so much devastation on earth.

Within our own lives, in our families, and among our loved ones, pain and suffering are realities we all experience. As we look at all these, there seems to be something inherently wrong with the world.

This should not surprise us, however, as it is written in the Bible. The world is indeed broken and that it is breaking under the weight of *sin*. **Romans 1:25** tells us that human beings exchanged the truth for a lie and chose instead to serve creatures rather than the Creator. As a result, the entire planet groans and suffers (**Romans 8:22**). And just as sin entered into the world, death came to all people because of sin (**Romans 5:12**). The wages of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**) which is not just physical but also eternal death.

But the Bible does not leave us clueless and hopeless. In **Colossians 1:21**, Apostle Paul was reminding the believers at Colossae that they too were once alienated and hostile to God, and were engaged in evil behavior. Like the Colossians, we all need reconciliation. We have been separated from God ourselves because of sin (**Isaiah 59:2**). But Paul wrote that Christ is supreme in the work of reconciliation and we are urged to be reconcilers ourselves. *Reconciliation* means the restoration to a right relationship.

HOW ARE WE RECONCILED?

Although we were separated from God, He reconciled us by Christ's fleshly body through death to present us holy and blameless before Him (**Colossians 1:22**).

Because Christ is Himself God, when He reconciles us with God, it is not just merely a matter of patching up but making the relationship completely restored. This is God's kind of reconciliation.

The Bible tells us that Christ suffered once for our sins, the righteous for the unrighteous (**1 Peter 3:18**). He paid the *death penalty* of our sins. That is, His life for our lives to reconcile us back to God. It is a costly 'free gift' of salvation for us — eternal life (**Romans 6:23**).

WHAT IS OUR PART?

But because we live in a performance-based world, we often think that we have to earn our reconciliation with God by doing enough good works. Thus, when we find ourselves not good enough, we become unsure about our relationship with God.

The Bible is very clear, however, that there is nothing we can do to reconcile ourselves to God. It is all by His grace alone and our part is to humbly *accept by faith* His offer of reconciliation (**Ephesians 2:8–9**). To receive that gift, we must be willing to completely place our faith in Jesus and what He did for us.

If only we can get to understand how far we have fallen and how doomed we are, and realize as well how Christ was bruised and broken on our behalf, how He absorbed the pain that was meant for us, then we will surely understand that God's gift of reconciliation is indeed very costly. Once we fully understand the gospel, not just in our head but also in our heart, we will gladly stay steadfast and we will not be swayed away from the hope of the Gospel which we have heard (**Colossians 1:23**).

More so, we who have been reconciled to God shall become *ministers of reconciliation* to this world

WORD (cont'd)

(**2 Corinthians 5:18–19**). Since Christ is supreme in our reconciliation, the natural response is to become reconcilers ourselves. That is, when Jesus ascended to heaven, the church as His Body became the vessel that will continue His work of showing God's love to the people who have no personal connection yet with Him (**Colossians 1:24**).

May it be that when people look at us, they can also see the kind of suffering and pain that Christ has so willingly bore for them. If they can see that love in us, they would not be able to help it but to also receive

Jesus in their lives. But loving and serving in Christ cannot be sustained without sacrifice. It will cost us and that shall include time, convenience, resources, and even our own lives.

In the end, the happiest people in the world are the people who know the mystery of Christ that is in them. Bear in mind that we are not only ministers but also *stewards* of that mystery, the Word of God. The richest glory of that mystery is Christ who is Himself the hope of glory satisfying the deepest of longings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **The Father's Pleasure.** What brings pleasure to God the Father according to **Colossians 1:19–20**?
2. **Reconciler's Ministry.** What is the ministry of reconciliation? How have you been doing as a minister of reconciliation?
3. **Ministers of Reconciliation.** What is the biggest challenge that you have so far encountered as a minister of reconciliation? How are you able to minister reconciliation with people amidst these challenges?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Ministers in Action

How can you minister to specific people in your pray-care-share list who need Christ this week?

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends