

Get Freedom,
Give Freedom



The Search for Significance
and Beyond

God's Answer: Reconciliation

I am totally accepted
by God!

Review: The Satanic Equation

My Self-Worth =

my performance + other's opinions of me

$$SW = MP + OO$$

Fear of rejection: I must be approved [accepted] by certain others to feel good about myself.

The Truth

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

-Colossians 1:21-22

Reconciliation implies 3 states...

- Friendship
 - Quarrel
 - Friendship again
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- Where in Scripture do we see these states?

These 3 states are described in *The Atonement* by Leon Morris.

Accepting forgiveness

- Pam's Story (pp. 63-64)
- Have you ever had trouble forgiving yourself or accepting forgiveness?
- What does this say about the sufficiency of the cross?

Justification vs. Reconciliation

- Justification – doctrine that explains the judicial facts of our forgiveness and righteousness in Christ
- Reconciliation – the doctrine that explains the relational aspect of our salvation

Reconciliation in Scripture

- What happens to our transgressions? (Ps. 103:12)
- Why was Christ's blood shed? (Matt. 26:28)
- What is God's promise? (John 3:16)
- What is the promise to the person who knows and believes? (John 5:24)
- What do His sheep have? Will they perish? (John 10:27-28)

Reconciliation in Scripture

- Of what did the prophets bear witness? (Acts 10:43)
- What does belief do? (Acts 13:39)
- By what are we justified? (Rom. 3:23-24)
- Who is blessed? (Rom. 4:7)
- Through what are we reconciled? (Rom. 5:10)

Reconciliation in Scripture

- Describe the nature of our relationship with God. (Rom. 8:15)
- Who shall accuse us? (Rom. 8:33)
- Of what is Paul convinced? (Rom. 8:38-39)
- Describe what we are in Christ. (2 Cor. 5:17, 19, 21)
- On what basis are we justified? What part do works play in justification? (Gal. 2:16)

Reconciliation in Scripture

- On what basis did Abraham receive righteousness? (Gal. 3:6)
- According to what do we receive forgiveness? (Eph. 1:7)
- On what basis can we boast? (Eph. 2:8-9)
- What would you have to do in order to receive forgiveness? (Heb. 9:22)

Reconciliation in Scripture

- After forgiveness, what is to be our offering for sin? (Heb. 10:18)
- Who is the perfecter of our faith? (Heb. 12:2)
- Of what is Peter convinced? (I Peter 1:3-4)

Seeking significance the world's way

- Through success and approval
- We look to:
 - Other believers
 - Non-believers
- Where does this put us on the grid?

PERFORMANCE

- All truth and no grace
- Relationships are fake and performance-based

GRACE & TRUTH

- Relationships as God intended
- Full knowledge & expression of truth in love

ISOLATION

- No truth or grace
- No relationships

TOTAL EXCESS

- All grace and no truth
- Behaviors are excessive and relationships are shallow

Obstacle to Receiving the Truth

- Lack of parental model of God's character
 - Leads to fear of being hurt again and withdrawal
- New, healthy models are needed
 - God uses the body of believers
 - See pp. 71-73 for info on healthy vs. unhealthy relationships



My Father Exercise

- My Father is very patient and kind.
- My Father is not envious, never boastful.
- My Father is not arrogant.
- My Father is never rude, nor is He self-seeking
- My Father is not quick to take offense.
- My Father keeps no record of wrongs.
- My Father does not gloat over my sins but is always glad when truth prevails.
- My Father knows no limit to His endurance, no end to His trust.
- My Father is always hopeful and patient.



Small Group Discussion Time

Next Steps

- Keep praying for the Spirit's work in your heart and mind
- Read Chapter 7 and work through Step 7
- Next meeting:
 - January 28th