

Unwrapping Our Greatest Gift

Reconciliation: God's Answer to the Approval Addict

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Message Truth:

Each person who has received Christ as Savior is the recipient of God's greatest gift. Too often, however, we fail to realize our full potential as Christians. One reason for this failure is the confusion in the minds of many Christians concerning their salvation. Too few of us fully unwrap the meaning and significance contained in the gift of our salvation. This Christmas we will seek to better understand the gift of our salvation. While each of us who have accepted Christ as Savior are complete, often we fail to fully realize our full potential as Christians. Former attitudes, habits and false beliefs impede our spiritual progress. Today we will focus on how our addiction to the approval of others springs from a misunderstanding of the facet of our salvation known as reconciliation.

① Many people mistakenly believe that being a _____ of others will bring them f _____ and h _____.

The approval seeker allows others to demand of them constantly. Their fear of "what others will think" causes them to overextend themselves because they can never seem to bring themselves to say no. They fail to understand that Christ has accepted them already and they do not have to conform to others to gain His acceptance.

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:21 (KJV)

If you are a Christian who is addicted to the approval of others you need to fully understand that Jesus is your Lord and that He alone is who you must please.

The one who denies they care uses their facade of strength to hide a deep seated fear of rejection. They will often attempt to avoid all situations which might cause them to struggle with having to confront what others might think of them. They fail to understand that Christ has accepted them already and they do not have to conform to others to gain His acceptance.

Reconciliation

The act of sinful man being reconciled to the Holy God

✓ Reconciliation is made possible only through the d _____ of Christ.

Justification speaks of the removal of guilt in regard to the law of God and the restoration of our legal standing before God. Reconciliation goes far beyond that. Our whole life has changes. The statement, "*If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" (II Corinthians 5:17) is used in connection with reconciliation.

✓ **The primary emphasis of the word is on the c_____ of the relationship between God and man.**

Those who were enemies now are friends.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² 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 1:21-22

✓ **N_____ can s_____ those who are redeemed from Christ.**

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:38-39

✓ **Those who have been born again are s_____ by the Holy Spirit.**

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 1:13-14

Christ alone is the source of our forgiveness, freedom, joy, and purpose.

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died

for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

**God's power to reconcile your sin is greater than your power to sin.
If it is not so then Christ's atoning work on Calvary would be insufficient.**

Those who are saved do not sin with license, they are convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit. If you can sin without conviction then you never have been saved.

The Moment We Trust Christ

● **A_____ your sins are forgiven**

⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

● **You become a c_____ of G_____**

¹² Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
John 1:12

● **You receive e_____ life**

²⁴ "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. John 5:24

● **You are delivered from Satan's d_____ and transferred into the k_____ of Christ**

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
Colossians 1:13