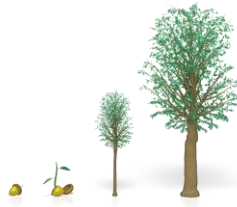


RECONCILE, RESTORE, UNITE

“Churches” are built around doctrine, what we believe about God and His ways. Every time a group of people discover some new aspect of truth, it is difficult to bring that truth into the “church” they are attending. This, in the past, has been the seeding ground for new denominations or branches of denominations.



That has been a hard thing for me to wrap my brain around for a long time. Many people are so set in their ways that they never question their beliefs. They never change their beliefs. They settle into the same “church” their parents, grandparents, and even great grandparents attended. “Afterall,” they say, “Jesus is the same today, as He was yesterday, and will be tomorrow.”

That statement is very true. However, our revelation or understanding of Him is not complete. The fulness of Jesus is so enormous, it would destroy us if we received an understanding of that fulness all at time. We move from glory to glory discovering who He really is and what He has done for us. If we are moving from glory to glory in our understanding, then that means our doctrine will necessarily change as we understand more about our wonderful Lord.

I am hesitant to say this because many will not understand, but my doctrine is changing almost daily. I would have to start a new “church” at least once a week. That really scares a lot of people. When we depend on Holy Spirit for daily bread, that means we are expecting fresh revelation every day. Jesus is the spirit of revelation. I find it extremely hard to even write books because before I can complete one, revelation changes something I just wrote. That can be extremely frustrating at times when I have to go back and rewrite a portion I just finished.



Even as I write this, I find a portion of my recent book, needs to be rewritten. The most important thing we can learn above all else, is we must continually be on a mission to get to know our wonderful Lord. Learn to hear and recognize His voice. It takes time and practice, but is so worth it!

In Ephesians Paul told the people that he prayed for them. One of the items that he prayed for them is found in this verse. I pray it also for my readers.

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: Ephesians:1:17

We cannot, in a day or two, discover all of the wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Jesus. It takes a lifetime or more. That means our doctrine, our

RECONCILE, RESTORE, UNITE

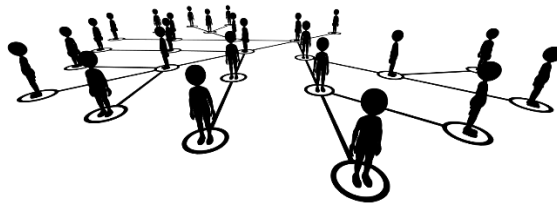
understanding of Him, must change on a regular basis. If it is not, then we are not pursuing Him as we should be.

One of those new revelations of Jesus came to me pretty recently. Fourteen years ago, a prophet gave me these words from the Lord, *"I begin to reconcile some things back to you for the ministry of reconciliation shall come to you this day and begin to reconcile the things that the enemy has stolen from you, even people."*

Recently I have been drawn to the words "minister of reconciliation". At the time of the word, it had not been that long since I had lost some friends from my life and I connected with the word of reconciliation concerning people relationships. At the time of the prophetic word, I had looked up this passage in the Bible and thought there is nothing really special here. If we know Jesus, He has reconciled us to Himself and ALL of us become ministers of reconciliation.

Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. Look, all things have become new. All this is from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.
II Corinthians 5:17,18 (MEV)

At the time there was no real new revelation for me concerning these verses. They were Bible verses I had memorized as a child. They seemed pretty simple and easy to understand. So, when God said through the prophet that the ministry of reconciliation was coming to me that day, even though I questioned the meaning, I thought it dealt strictly with the restoration of people and relationships.



This is an example of why it is important to hang on to your prophetic words, and anything God says to you. Write them down and store them in your heart. God means what He says and often the fulness of the revelation of it will come over time.

I had to learn some truths concerning the Ekklesia and the Kingdom of God before I could understand the truth of the spirit of reconciliation. Here, I am going to digress somewhat to explain how this came around for me again. I promise to bring it all back together.

I had been talking to God about Christians who question whether to participate in activities like voting, being on school boards, being poll watchers, and other cultural life pursuits. There are a lot of Christians who believe they are citizens of heaven and therefore it is not their responsibility to vote in earthly elections or get too involved in earthly activities. This has actually been taught from many pulpits.

The Old Testament is a picture of people living out a physical life without the Spirit living within. The New Testament is written about what our life should be now from

RECONCILE, RESTORE, UNITE

the spiritual aspect. We are taught that Jesus is all about spiritual things. Anything else is taught to be carnal. Thus, many were taught it is a good thing to be poor, to be sick, to be persecuted. These things made us more spiritual. The physical life is immaterial, we must concentrate on the spiritual life. We are only here for a short time.

A Bible verse actually from the same chapter talking about the ministry of reconciliation is used to push this thought. We don't belong to earth; we belong to heaven. We are only here for a short time to get people saved. Very few understand that it is really when spiritual and physical come together in Jesus that true reconciliation happens.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us. We implore you in Christ's stead: Be reconciled to God.

II Corinthians 5:20 (MEV)

Ambassadors are people who are assigned to live in a country where they are not a citizen and represent their country in that place for diplomatic reasons. Our thoughts are we are from heaven trying to reconcile man's relationship to God. That in many minds means that the goal of our lives is strictly spiritual, get people saved so they can also go to heaven.

A fairly large paradigm shift is needed to turn that teaching around. When God created Adam and Eve in the beginning, He created them as creatures of both worlds. He created them from the dirt of the earth, making them earth creatures, and then He breathed Spirit life into them making them heaven creatures. They were created for both worlds.

They were told to inhabit and govern the earth. They sinned and turned the right of governing the earth over to the enemy. We are waiting on the return of Jesus to the earth to take back His right to rule over the earth, not realizing He accomplished that through His death and resurrection at His first coming.

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

Psalms 24:1 (NLT)

The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, but the earth he has given to the sons of Adam.

Psalms 115:16 (JUB)

The earth has always belonged to God. He gave it to man to rule and govern over systems needed on the earth. It is that right to rule worldly systems that was turned over to the enemy by Adam. So, we have been taught that our job as ambassadors was to come and rescue people out of the systems so they could go to heaven. That is the extent of our responsibility.

However, that is not what the Bible teaches. It teaches that Jesus came and restored man's right to rule and reign in the earth. He was the Man, the second and final Adam. We are a part of Him as the one new man that Paul writes so much about in his books. So, suddenly I had the urge to do more research on the word "ambassador".

RECONCILE, RESTORE, UNITE

The Greek word for ambassador can also be translated as elder or older. Historians of the early centuries using this word often translated it as envoy. An envoy is someone or a group sent to someone else with a message. They may also be sent on a mission in behalf of someone else.

When we think ambassador, we automatically think foreigner. An ambassador today does not belong to the country in which they live. This picture causes us to believe we are citizens of heaven, foreign to the earth, sent to tell earth what heaven wants. One famous song puts it this way, "This world is not my home, I'm just passing through".



However, we are citizens of both heaven and earth. We are people who have a direct message from heaven to the people of earth, including ourselves. We have a mission, an assignment to make earth look like heaven. We cannot do that strictly living a spiritual life. We have to participate in the plans and messages from God in our physical lives as well. That means we need to be using spiritual principles and messages from heaven in our voting, in how schools, businesses and government are run. We should be involved in these areas.

Revisiting the word "ambassador" drew me into a clearer understanding of reconciliation and the ministry of reconciliation found in this II Corinthians passage. Reconciliation to God means much more than just salvation and everyone of us is called to be a minister of reconciliation.

and to reconcile all things to Himself by Him, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him, I say—whether they are things in earth, or things in heaven.
Colossians 1:20 (MEV)

All things are being reconciled, not just people. Reconcile means to bring everything back to a previous state of being. Reconciliation is the restoration of God's original plan for mankind. Glory to God! It is a part of restoration. It is a part of the revealing of the children of God and the fullness of their Lord in the earth. We are coming full circle. The end is returning to the beginning.

Let's look at another passage in the Bible.

In Him we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished on us in all wisdom and insight, making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself, as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, which are in heaven and on earth.

Ephesians 1:7-10 (MEV)

RECONCILE, RESTORE, UNITE

What is the end goal of reconciliation, the result of restoration, the mystery of God's absolute will? The end result is all things both in heaven and in earth will be united, restored, reconciled in Christ! Amen and Amen, let it be so! In order for this to happen, we have to realize who we are, and what we are supposed to be here on earth, knowing we have access to all of heaven's resources to make it happen!

We are living in a time where we can bring fulness to the times we live. Just as King Cyrus opened a door for the Jews to return to their land and begin to establish what God desired, we are being given an opportunity to begin to effect change in our time so God can establish what He desires. It is a time to truly become the Ekklesia with a mind to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth.

We looked at what Paul said back in Colossians chapter one verse 20 that all things were being reconciled back to Jesus. Paul goes on to say that he carries the marks in his body from persecution for the sake of the body of Christ who is the Ekklesia. He is saying a part of reconciliation is the preparation of the Bride, the work of polishing building blocks for the house Jesus is building, the Ekklesia.



When the building blocks take their appropriate place in the body and the body connects with the Head who is Jesus, then they can operate as the Ekklesia and bring about complete reconciliation of all things, both in heaven and earth. Little did I know the words of the prophet years ago concerning reconciliation would open a whole new world of revelation to me, in God's timing and in His way. Yes, it started fourteen years ago, but continued until the time when I was ready to understand the fulness of the revelation of one little word. That is the world of adventure!

