

Discussion questions, “Reconciliation”, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, and then read the surrounding context, beginning in chapter 4, and then into chapter 6. What problems of the Corinthians (and us) is Paul seeking to correct?
2. (5:16, 17) Compare with 1 Corinthians 3:1-9. How had the Corinthian believers been looking at one another? How does Paul correct this?
3. Is it true that our problems with other people (strife, unresolved conflicts) may stem from not being reconciled to God? (2 Cor. 5:20) Can you think of any examples where you have seen this to be true?
4. “Salvation is not only the forgiveness of sins, but the restoration of a relationship with God.” What is meant by this? Why is it not enough “just to believe Christ died for your sins”?
5. Why does the Cross negate all supposed human superiority and inferiority, whether ethnic, racial, or social? (Col. 3:11)
6. Examine Jesus’ passion and authority for the salvation of others in Matthew 11:28; Luke 13:34; 19:41; and John 7:37. Do you feel this is true of you? If we have lost this, how do we recapture it?
7. Think about Jim Elliot’s words: “When it comes time to die, make sure that all you have to do is die.” What did he mean by that, and how would you apply it?
8. In what way is the imperative, “be reconciled to God” (5:20), also applicable to believers today? How was it applicable to the Corinthian church?