

Sunday, February 18, 2018—Grace Life School of Theology—Ambassadorship 101—Lesson 7
Understanding the Ministry of Reconciliation, Part 3

Humanities Reality

- Ephesians 2:1-3—man, by nature, is born dead in trespasses and sins (verse 1) and therefore is by “nature” a child of wrath (verse 3). I Cor. 15:22 states, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” Paul teaches that all of humanity inherited the fallen nature of Adam and is therefore “in Adam” at birth: dead in trespasses and sins, with God’s wrath abiding upon him. We are not born automatically reconciled to God.
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:1—peace with God is only possessed by those who have been justified by faith.
- Romans 5:8—every person reading was still dead in their sins when Christ died for them. Every person reading was born dead in sins even though Christ died for them 2,000 years ago.
- Romans 5:9-10—“now” that we have believed the gospel of Christ, we are “justified by his blood” (verse 9). Before we were justified by faith (verse 1) “we were enemies” of God, according to verse 10. Even though God settled his **IRRECONCILABLE** differences with us 2,000 years ago and made us **RECONCILABLE**, we were still by nature God’s enemy because of inherited sin. Therefore, we are not **RECONCILED TO GOD** in verse 10 until after we have been **JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD** in verse 9. The only thing God will accept is perfect righteousness. Therefore, we are not reconciled to God until the righteousness of God is imputed to our account when we are justified by faith.
- Romans 6:23—therefore, we are born into a reality in which provision for our sin problem has been made and **THE PRICE HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL**, but we are still prime candidates for the wrath of God upon entrance into this life. Why? Because justification, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life are the gift of God through Jesus Christ. By way of illustration, at Christmas time I go to the store and **PURCHASE** gifts for my children. I pay the required redemption price on their behalf. Therefore, on Christmas morning, the gifts have been **PAID FOR**, but they do not **BELONG** to my children yet because they have yet to receive them as their own. It is not until they receive the gifts and appropriate them as their own that they belong to them even though I **PAID FOR** them on their behalf.
- Romans 3:24—so it is with our salvation. Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ **PAID FOR** all our sin. In doing so he made us **RECONCILABLE** or **SAVEABLE**. Before that payment can be placed to our account we first have to receive the gift of salvation by grace through faith as our own. When we acknowledge our sinfulness and realize that we cannot save ourselves and we rely and trust exclusively in the shed blood of Christ and his resurrection from the dead as the total

and complete payment for our sin we are justified, reconciled to God, baptized into the body of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, and seated in Christ at the right hand of God far above all principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This is the other side of the reconciliation coin.

- Ephesians 2:8-9—until we by faith receive the gift and trust the provision that Christ made on our behalf, we remain dead in trespasses and sins with God’s wrath abiding upon us. Christ once and for all time put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; but only those individuals that by faith apply that provision to their own personal sin account are reconciled to God.
- II Corinthians 5:17-18—one must be in Christ to receive the following spiritual benefits.

In Adam	In Christ
Dead in trespasses and sins Child of disobedience In the lusts of the flesh By nature, children of wrath Experience the second death i.e., eternal damnation and separation from God	Forgiven/Justified Reconciled to God New creature Old things are passed away All things are become new

- Just because God was not imputing the world’s trespasses unto them in a dispensational sense does not automatically mean that he was imputing his righteousness unto them individually. The Imputed righteousness of Christ (justification) is given to any person the moment they acknowledge their sin and trust the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the only total and complete payment for their sins. Justification must precede reconciliation. **NO ONE IS BORN INTO THIS LIFE ALREADY RECONCILED TO GOD.**
- People die and go to hell every day having their sins PAID FOR but no one dies and goes to hell having their sins FORGIVEN. Forgiveness is not granted until the gift has been accepted.

How Does One Get into Christ?

- Romans 3:22—the offer of salvation during the dispensation of grace is unto all men, however, it is only upon all them that BELIEVE.
- Romans 5:1—those who have been justified by FAITH have peace with God. By definition, having peace with God means that they have been Reconciled unto to God. How? By FAITH.
- One cannot get into the Christ without belief/faith in the finished work of Christ. Those who are in Adam i.e., the lost are not forgiven.
- The notion of the forgiven lost is a position of no practical consequence. If God is going to send forgiven and reconciled people to hell anyway what difference does it make that they were forgiven. The NR position is illogical and unscriptural. The forgiven lost won’t take part in the rapture because they are lost and still in Adam.

- I Thessalonians 4:14—you must BELIEVE that Jesus died and rose again to participate in the rapture.
- Acts 13:38-39—if forgiveness of sins and reconciliation were accomplished fact for every individual why was Paul preaching the “forgiveness of sins?” Verse 39 makes it clear that one must BELIEVE in order to be justified and have their sins forgiven. It is contradiction of English grammar and common sense to teach someone that they can be forgiven but not justified.
- Acts 26:18—is pretty clear that if one wants their sins FORGIVEN they need to believe the Christ died for their sins.
- II Corinthians 6:2—the entire dispensation of grace is a day of salvation. God is willing to save anyone today who trusts in the finished work of his son.