

**The Ministry of Reconciliation
Vs
The Spirit of Separation**

- **God has called us to be ministers of reconciliation! 2 Cor. 5:11-21**

Key Verses:

Vs 14 & 15 “**For the love of Christ controls us**, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, **that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him** who for their sake died and was raised.”

Vs 17 “Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, **the new has come**.”

Vs 18 “All this from God, **who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry to reconciliation**.”

Vs 19 “that is, **in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and **entrusting to us the message of reconciliation**.”

Vs 20 “Therefore, **we are ambassadors** for Christ, God making his appeal through us. **We implore you** on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God**.”

Key word definitions:

Reconcile: (Vines Expository Dictionary) “to change from enmity to friendship.”
(Strong’s #2644)

Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary: to restore to friendship or harmony.

Repair:

1. a. to restore by replacing a part or putting together what is torn or broken.

b. to restore to a sound or healthy state: renew
2. to make good: compensate for

TEXT 2 Cor. 5:16-21

2 Cor. 5:19 “committed to us the message of reconciliation”

- How do we know if we have forgiven from the heart?
- If the focus of my mind and what comes out of my mouth is still on what the other party has done to hurt me (the pain) then “Forgiving from the heart” has not been complete.
- We may desire to reconcile and restore but until we “forgive from the heart” reconciliation and restoration cannot be complete. Also, reconciliation and restoration cannot be complete if both parties (or on a corporate level ALL parties) have not taken responsibility for their own inappropriate (sinful) attitudes, actions and words.
- The maturity level of a believer is revealed or exposed by their willingness and obedience to God’s word and response to the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- **Reconciled from separation (enemies of God), saved by His life and filled with His love!** **Romans 5:1-11**

Key Verses:

Vs 1 “Therefore, **since we have been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Vs 3-5 “**More than that**, we rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because **God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit** who has been given to us.”

Vs 10 & 11 “For if **while we were enemies** we were **reconciled to God** by the death of his son, much more, now that **we are reconciled**, shall we be **saved by His life**, more than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom **we have now received reconciliation.**”

➤ **Remember from last week’s message on The Power of Unity?**

- **The Father's will is the revelation on earth of His perfected love.**

Vs 22-23 "The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that **they may be one even as we are one**, I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one**, so that **the world** may know that you sent me and **loved them even as you loved me.**"

- **Jesus taught His disciples to pray "Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."** **Matt. 6:10, Luke 11:2**

- **God's Kingdom on earth versus Satan's kingdom**

God's kingdom is a **kingdom of His united rule** and Satan's kingdom is of **division and separation.**

- **Therefore separation is Satan's foundational tool to divide and conquer.**

- **Every kingdom divided cannot stand.** **Matt 12:22-32**

Key Verses

Vs 25 "Knowing their thoughts, he said to them, **Every Kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.**"

Vs 28 "But if it is **by the Spirit of God** that **I cast out demons**, then **the Kingdom of God has come upon you.**"

Vs 30-32 "**Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.** Therefore, I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but **the blasphemy against the Spirit** will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven**, either in this age or the age to come."

Question: Why is **the spirit of separation** such a destructive force in the church today?

Answer: Because spiritual authority is present in proportion to the unity of relationships among believers moving toward a common God given goal.

“There are too many quarrels between Christians today. We are quick to point out the faults of our brothers and sisters, but the Bible reveals that we need to look at our own lives. James asked, “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God” (James 4:1-2)

Jesus warned His followers against having a critical and judgmental spirit. If we all took heed of His words, the church would be much more effective: “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Matt. 7:3-5)

We need to completely forgive those who attack, accuse and criticize us unfairly. Don’t hold any bitterness toward them, for this will only lead to your own destruction. Bitterness is the Devil’s often-used strategy to distract Christians from God’s work and to stunt their usefulness or God’s kingdom. God is able to take all the “friendly fire” people throw at us and use it to build more character into our lives.¹

- **The spirit of separation works in**

- Marriages
- Friendships
- Families
- Churches
- Denominations
- Groups
- Between races
- At the office
- At school
- Between nations

Wherever there are people!

¹ Living Water, Zondervan 2008, by Brother Yun and Paul Hattaway, ISBN 978-0-310-28554-0

Practical remedy for separation – prayer applications

1. Recognize how the spirit of separation operates.
2. Renounce its operation **in you**.
 - Repent of your sins of separation one by one
 - Let the blood of Jesus cover them all
 - The power of this prayer application depends on your own repentance of separation at work in you (Matt. 7:1-5)
3. Don't try in your own flesh to dismantle the walls of separation of others. (Gal. 5:15, I Tim. 4:16, II Cor. 13:5)

This is a spiritual battle, not one against flesh and blood.(II Cor. 10:3-6, Eph. 6:12)

4. As you pray to uproot each of the workings of the spirit of separation, pray to plant or establish the opposite spirit, which is the work of nature of Jesus for each one.

Pray this way:

“I repent of pride, and renounce its control in my life. Heavenly Father, work in me the spirit of humility, as you fill me with the fullness of the sweet Spirit of Christ Jesus.”

Go through each one listed and ask the Lord to show you the ones that have been operating in your life.

5. Pray for God to send His spirit to overcome and restore. Ask God to establish the Kingdom rule of His lordship in relationships and in the Body of Christ. Sow restoration by His next steps of obedience: praise, prayer, repentance, restitution, confirming your love, affirmation, faith, rejoicing, endurance etc., as God leads.

- **The ultimate cure for separation is union**
 - In the Head (Eph 4:1-16)
 - Abiding in the Vine (John 15:1-16)
 - Oneness in the family (John 17, I John 5:1)
 - And Fellowship in the Spirit (Phil. 2:1-5)

Spirit of Separation	vs	God's Spirit	Scripture
1. Pride (vanity, arrogance) _____		Humility	Phil 2:1-8
2. Self-centeredness (jealousy, rivalry) _____		Sacrifice	Heb 10:1-10, Rom 12:1-2
3. Deception (vain imaginations, idolatry) _____		Truth	John 14:6, John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13
4. No fear of God (rebellion, disobedience) _____		Fear of the Lord	Prov. 8:13, Rev. 15:4
5. Control (manipulation, occult) _____		Filling of the Spirit	Rom 8:1, 15:13
6. Rejection (insecurity) _____		Acceptance	Rom. 8:23, 8:15, Gal 4:6-7, Rev 12:10-11
7. Accusation (judging, criticism, mocking) _____		Grace	I Tim 1:12-17, Eph 2:5-9, Galatians
8. Unforgiveness (resentment, bitterness) _____		Forgiveness	Matt 18:21-35, Heb 12:14-15
9. Sins of the fathers (including curses) _____		The cross	Gal 2:20, 5:14 & 6:14
10. Perversion of God-intended roles _____		Submission	Eph 5:21, Jam 4:1-7
11. Confusion (disorder) _____		Godly Wisdom	James 3:17
12. Apathy (not caring) _____		Love	I Cor 13, I John 3 & 4
13. Ignorance _____		Mercy & Truth	John 8:32, Heb 4:16, Jam 2:12-13, 3:17, 5:11
14. Busyness _____		Waiting on God	Ps 38:15, Ps 46:10
15. Lust (coveting) _____		Holiness	I Pet 1:13-19
16. Materialism (greed, worldliness) _____		Extravagant Generosity	2 Cor 8 & 9
17. Withdrawal _____		Trinity unity	Eph 4:1-6, John 17, Ps 133
18. Anger (hatred, violence, provocation) _____		Death-to-self	Gal 2:20, 5:24, 6:14
19. Racism (prejudice) _____		Reconciliation & Restoration	2 Cor 5:18-21, I John 4:7-19
20. Death _____		Life	Rom 8:1-11