

Connecting to Colonial's Covenant – 13 October 4, 2015

Pastor Phelps II Cor. 5:18-21

A COMMITMENT TO RECONCILIATION

The next to the last paragraph in the Covenant of Colonial Hills Baptist Church
focuses on interpersonal relationships. Those who connect to Colonial's
Covenant promise to care for one another. Specifically, our Covenant says,
"We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember
each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate
Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take
but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of
the rules of the Savior, to secure it without delay."
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Reconciliation means the restoration of a good relationship between ____. It is a "change of personal relations . . . a state of enmity and estrangement is replaced by one of peace and fellowship" (Baker's Dictionary of Theology). Real reconciliation allows those who were once enemies to embrace!

Our world knows much of separation and little of reconciliation! Sin separates us from God and drives us from one another (Gen. 3:8-10; 4:8-12). Skirmishes, battles, and relational break-ups prove that our hearts are selfish and sinful (James 4:1; Prov. 13:10). If we "walk in the spirit," we do "not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (Ga. 5:16).

Our Covenant Commitment to reconciliation is maintained as we consider:

A PHILOSOPHY OF RECONCILIATION

Our philosophy of reconciliation must begin with our understanding of the heart of God. The Bible contains God's message of reconciliation to man. In the pages of the Word of God, we discover God's plan to restore a relationship broken by mankind's sin.

GOD THE FATHER IS THE ______ OF RECONCILIATION (v. 18). We do not reconcile God to ourselves for He has done nothing wrong (James 1:13). We do not reconcile ourselves to God for we are without power (Titus 3:5). He reconciles us to Himself (Rom. 5:6-10).

GOD	THE SON IS THE OF RE	CONCILIATION (v. 18-19)		
1.	The scope of His reconciling work is	(v. 19).		
2.	The sacrifice of his reconciling work is	(v. 19).		
3.	The standing of His reconciling work is	(v. 21).		
	STIANS ARE TO BE THE	OF HIS		
	K OF RECONCILIATION (v. 20).			
1.	us the word of reconciliation (v. 19).	fod hath committed unto		
2.	Consider your "N for Christ (v. 20).	ow then we are ambassadors		
3.	· · ·	"Receive not the grace of		
4.	God in vain" (II Cor. 6:1). Consider your	"Now is the accepted time"		
4.	(II Cor. 6:2).	Now is the accepted time		
to practice reconciliation toward others. Reconciliation is the pulse of God's heartbeat which presses us to practice forgiveness (Eph. 4:32).				
A PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION				
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unwill	are those who understand the theologing to put feet to their theology. Our Cover ciliation without delay." Let's see why reco	y of reconciliation but are ant says that we will "secure		
unwill reconc WITH	are those who understand the theology ing to put feet to their theology. Our Cover ciliation without delay." Let's see why recover the control of the contro	y of reconciliation but are ant says that we will "secure onciliation is a priority:		
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practicing biblical reconciliation, an amazing purpose is fulfilled.

THERE IS A W	TITNESS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO OUR
(John 13:35).	When Christians walk in Spirit-wrought harmony there is
Spirit-given	!

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When the local church body in general, and the members in particular, are practicing biblical reconciliation, an amazing purpose is fulfilled.

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