

## The Reconciling of God's Love

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Colossians 1:20-22 (I love the word “reconciliation”).

There are three things God loves more than anything else.

The first love of God is His love of HOLINESS. Malachi 2:11—*Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the LORD which he loved...* God's name is “Holy” (Luke 1:49). The seraphims fly about God's throne saying, “*Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts*” (Isa. 6:3 cf. Rev. 4:8). Holy is the Father... Holy is the Son... Holy is the Spirit. 41 times the Bible calls God the “*most holy.*” 51 times He is called “*the holy One.*”

Secondly, God loves JUSTICE. Psalms 37:28—*For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.* Isaiah 61:8—*For I the LORD love judgment...* God is just and holy. Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14 calls God, “*the Just One.*” Jeremiah 50:7 says God is “*the habitation of justice.*”

Thirdly, God loves MAN. Titus 3:4—*But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared...* 1 John 4:10—*Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us...*

### I. LOVE'S COMMUNION.

#### A. Harmony in the Garden—

1. Holiness, justice, and man walked in beautiful harmony with God in the Garden of Eden. There was sweet fellowship between all four.
2. But something came between God and man—SIN! Man sinned when he decided to eat of the tree God forbid him to eat. The beautiful love relationship between God's holiness, and justice, and man was broken.

- B. Free will—God's love for man gave man a free will so man could freely choose to love God. But when Adam partook of the forbidden fruit, he made a choice to love himself more than God.

### II. LOVE'S CONFLICT.

➡ Now God's has a dilemma. God still loved man, but man has sinned. God cannot have man with his sin and keep His holiness and justice at the same time.

A. Sin's PENALTY—God warned Adam if he ate the forbidden fruit he would surely die. *“The soul that sinneth, it shall DIE... The wages of sin is DEATH... Sin when it is finished bringeth forth DEATH.”* Therefore man was SEPARATED from God.

B. God's PREDICAMENT—Justice requires punishment upon sin. If God allowed sin to go unpunished, God no longer has justice. If He lost His justice, He would also lose His holiness.

➡ If God is not just, He cannot be Holy either. And if He is not Holy, He is not God.

### III. LOVE'S CHOICE.

A. God must choose between two: (1) He can lose man and keep His justice and holiness. Or, (2) He can take man back with his sin and lose His justice and holiness.

B. God choose to keep justice and holiness and lose man. Man was separated from God... kicked out of the Garden of Eden... and denied access to the tree of life (Gen. 3:23-24).

1. That is why no one can get into heaven by “turning over a new leaf.” “Turning over a new leaf” does not satisfy the justice of God, which requires sin to be punished.

➡ If God is not just, God is not holy. And if God is not holy, God is not God, and He loses man anyway.

2. That is why no man can get to heaven by joining a church... doing sacraments... trying to live by the 10 Commandments. These things can never satisfy the justice of God because penalty of sin has not be paid! Justice upon si0.3 (t ) -0.4 (o)l 153.0ni -0.

#### IV. LOVE'S COUNSEL.

- God still loves man wants man back, but He cannot take man back at the expense of His justice and holiness. How can the love of God take sinful man back and still keep His justice and holiness?
- God must find a way to RECONCILE His love for sinful man with His love for justice and holiness.
  - A. The RESOLUTION—In the counsels of eternity and the wisdom of God it was determined God the Son...
    - ...would be made in the likeness of sinful flesh
    - ...would be born of a virgin and dwell among man.
    - ...would live a perfect life without sin and fulfill the Law.
    - ...would go to a cross and take all the sins of mankind upon Him.
    - ...would take our punishment and pay the penalty of death that justice demanded.
  - B. The RESULT—Justice would be satisfied that sin was punished. God's holiness would remain intact. And man could be received back without God losing justice and holiness. God's love for man, and His love of justice and holiness would be reconciled. Man could again be received into fellowship with God and justice and holiness.
 

*"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable, and his ways past finding out!"*
  - C. The RECONCILIATION—Oh, how great a salvation we have. Our salvation is based on God being God—God cannot be God if He allows man into heaven with his sin unpunished. God would rather remain being God than to let man into heaven without his sin being punished.
    - God cannot be God while letting a man into heaven just because he has been baptized... joined a church... or taken communion. Those things will never pay the penalty of sin.
    - The only One who could pay for man's sin must be someone who had no sin of his own! Someone must pay the debt who

owed not the debt. Someone must pay the price who doesn't owe the price! And the only One is God incarnate —The sinless Lord Jesus Christ.

- He never spoke a word He shouldn't have said
- He never had a thought He shouldn't have thought.
- He never had a motive that was impure.
- He never did a deed that went against God's will.
- He said, "*Who convinceth me of sin?*" and no one could answer.
- Pontius Pilate confessed, "*I find no fault in Him.*"

➔ He who never sinned, became sin for us that He might take the punishment justice demanded and die in our place.

ON THE CROSS JESUS became...

- ...a drunkard to be judged as a drunkard.
- ...an adulterer to He pay for the sins the adulterer.
- ...a thief to take the punishment of stealing.
- ...a liar to pay for the sin of lying.
- ...a murderer to pay the debt of the murderer.

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As Jesus bore all the sins of mankind on the cross, for the first time in all eternity, Jesus saw the backside of His Father. God turned away from His Son because He is "*of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity*" (Hab. 1:13). Jesus cried, "*My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" Why? Because God chose justice and holiness over His Son while He was bearing my sins and your sins at Calvary.

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- Because Jesus paid our sin debt on the cross, God's love for man... justice... and holiness has been reconciled. Now God can receive man back still keep His love for justice and holiness.

**WHAT MARVELOUS RECONCILIATION!** (READ TEXT)

➔ Oh, the unfathomable depths of the love of God—"*But God commented his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sin-*

*ners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8). “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us” (1 John 3:16).*

Oh the love that drew salvation’s plan  
 Oh the grace that brought it down to man  
 Oh the mighty gulf that God did span, At Calvary!

## **V. SALVATION’S CONTINGENCY.**

- God has provided a way for man to be restored into His fellowship. But it is all contingent upon man’s receiving Christ’s payment for sin (John 1:12).
- A. The DIRECTIONS of the cross—When Jesus bore our sins on the cross, the lower point of the cross pointed down to the hell we deserved... the top point was pointed to the heaven He was making a way for us... while in the middle, His arms were outstretched in love to any who would receive Him and the price He paid for their sins.
- B. The DEBT’S payment—Justice demanded the payment of death for your sin. The debt of sin must be paid—The question is, who is going to pay it? You can either pay it yourself by suffering the second death in the lake of fire. Or, you can accept the payment for sin Jesus made on the cross. It’s your choice
  - But make no mistake — God will always choose His justice and holiness over your sin. The debt must be paid.

SUMMATION: Every time a sinner accepts Christ’s payment for his sin, there is rejoicing in heaven! Why? Because now, God can take that man back to Himself without giving up His justice and holiness.