

**PRESS ON
IN CONFIDENCE****A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS**

LESSON 20 COLOSSIANS 1:19-23

1. What truth, verse, or insight from last week's study of **Colossians 1:15-18** was meaningful to you and how?

2. Pray and ask God to show you His fullness and some realities about yourself as you look in the mirror of His Word. Then read **Colossians 1:19-23**. Define the word, reconcile.

3. Read **V19** with **Colossians 2:9**. What permanently dwells in Jesus, and what does this mean for the identity of Jesus?

4. a) From **V20**, describe the scope of the reconciliation secured by Jesus and the means by which He secured it.

b) **V20** states that Jesus reconciled all things on earth and in heaven. Some people wrongly think this means that everyone will go to heaven. How would you respond to this claim (see **Romans 2:8 and 10:9-11**)?

5. Given the cultural thinking that "people are basically good," what strong words are used to unveil the spiritual problem we all face according to **V21**? What emotion does this verse evoke about yourself or a loved one?

6. How do **Ephesians 4:18-19** and **Titus 3:3** elaborate on the “evil behaviors” referred to in **V21**?

7. No one likes to be known as an enemy much less an enemy of God, but that is what Scripture calls us in our natural state.

a) **V22** presents the solution to our spiritual problem. Rewrite **V21-22** and make it personal, substituting your name whenever the word “you” appears.

b) Read **Romans 5:10-11**. As you have seen how God responded to us when we were His enemies, what is your response personally?

8. If you have been reconciled by Jesus, what does God see when He looks at you? What are some key phrases in **V22** and **Romans 8:1-2** that comfort you and why?

9. Why do you think reconciliation and making peace with God required the death of the physical body of Jesus (**V22**) and the shedding of His blood (**V20**)? Find Scripture to support your answer.

10. **V23** requires something of us as well. How are we to continue in our journey of faith after Jesus restores our right standing with God?

11. In essence, Paul was saying *press on in confidence* when he encouraged the Colossians to “continue in your faith, established and firm.”

a) What truth about reconciliation in this Lesson has grounded you more in your faith? Explain.

b) When have you been impacted by former “enemies” who reconciled with one another? How has that inspired or convicted you?

DIGGING DEEPER

We can be alienated from God vertically, and we can experience alienation from one another horizontally. God’s solution to both is reconciliation and restoration.

1. According to **2 Corinthians 5:18-20**, what has God given to us, and how are we to function?

2. What do you learn about cross-cultural reconciliation from the example in **Ephesians 2:14-16, 19**?

3. a) What is the problem Jesus addressed in **Matthew 5:23-24**, and how does reconciliation fit in?

b) What steps will you take to reconcile with a brother or sister who may have something against you?

4. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Colossians 1:22**

b) Form a prayer from anything in this Lesson that has stirred your heart.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST