



## Life Group Study Notes

### “The Human Right: Truth Brings Reconciliation”

Ps. James Lowe - April 29, 2018

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Have you ever fallen out with a close friend? How did that make you feel?
- Have you ever reconciled with a close friend from whom you had separated? What is one blessing that came from it?
- Have you ever helped two friends reconcile who had fallen out? What is one thing you did to help that happen?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

**Key Quote:** Ultimate reconciliation with others is only possible by being reconciled with God.

Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV)

*Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

The separation between Jews and Gentiles was deep, touching on religion, culture, ethnicity, and more. It included deep historical grievances. It epitomizes the divisions that have existed between peoples throughout history. It is emblematic of the problems we continue to have today around the world. Sin dwells in every human heart. Forgiveness is not easy. Reconciliation often doesn't occur, and if it does, is often superficial and not lasting.

God himself must reconcile us first to himself and then to one another. We are reconciled through Jesus Christ. He broke down the wall between us and God, and he can break down the wall between us and one another. We must come to him, surrendering to him. He is Lord; we are not. We must repent; God doesn't need to change. We must believe; he is the foundation and focus of our faith.

Through Christ even the most opposed enemies can be reconciled. In light of God's holiness and Christ's sufferings for our sins, we come to realize our own need for forgiveness. In light of his mercy and grace we are softened in our hearts and are able to forgive our enemies and desire their transformation and well-being. Through the gift of God's Spirit we are able to grow in real relationship with God and with others.

Each of us is responsible to proactively pursue God and reconciled relationships with others.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- Why is it necessary for us to be reconciled to God in order to bring about ultimate reconciliation with others?
- What are some key truths that we learn when we reconcile with God that become important for helping us to reconcile with others?
- What prevents people from genuinely reconciling with each other?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for Jesus taking the initiative to reconcile us to God.
- Ask God to deepen his work in us and through us to reconcile with others.
- Ask God to use us to help others to be reconciled with God and each other.