

Second Corinthians

Instructions to the Church

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.



“CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS”

I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

2 Corinthians 4:3 (NIV) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

Alas! and did my Savior bleed

And did my Sov'reign die?

Would He devote that sacred head

For such a worm as I?

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

A. A faulty view of God 5:16

2 Corinthians 5:16 (NIV) So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

A. A faulty view of God 5:16

2 Corinthians 5:3 (NIV) because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

A. A faulty view of God 5:16

2 Corinthians 5:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

A. A faulty view of God 5:16

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

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2 Corinthians 5:16 (NIV) So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

Isaiah 59:1-8 (NIV) ¹ Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. ³ For your hands are stained with blood, your fingers with guilt. Your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters wicked things. ⁴ No one calls for justice; no one pleads his case with integrity. They rely on empty arguments and speak lies; they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.



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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

⁵ They hatch the eggs of vipers and spin a spider's web. Whoever eats their eggs will die, and when one is broken, an adder is hatched. ⁶ Their cobwebs are useless for clothing; they cannot cover themselves with what they make. Their deeds are evil deeds, and acts of violence are in their hands. ⁷ Their feet rush into sin; they are swift to shed innocent blood. Their thoughts are evil thoughts; ruin and destruction mark their ways. ⁸ The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace.



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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

Isaiah 59:15-20 (NIV) ¹⁵ Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

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I. ALIENATION FROM GOD

B. Old things of sin, 5:17, 19, 21

¹⁸ According to what they have done, so will he repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes; he will repay the islands their due. ¹⁹ From the west, men will fear the name of the Lord, and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory. For he will come like a pent-up flood that the breath of the Lord drives along. ²⁰ "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the Lord.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

A. Originates in God, 5:18

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

A. Originates in God, 5:18

"The staggering message of the New Testament is that reconciliation is a work of God. Here he is, the offended and injured party, the one sinned against, and yet he sets up the whole machinery of reconciliation... It is a work that does not draw within its scope human action. It does not enlist the assistance of men. It does not depend upon the activity of men"

Geoff Thomas

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

B. Work of reconciliation, 5:18, 19, 21

v. 18 "who reconciled us to himself through Christ"

v. 19 "that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ"

v. 21 "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

B. Work of reconciliation, 5:18, 19, 21

1. Reconciliation points to a particular point in time when God acted.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

B. Work of reconciliation, 5:18, 19, 21

2. Reconciliation points to God becoming part of the race that He would redeem.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

B. Work of reconciliation, 5:18, 19, 21

3. Reconciliation points to the boundaries of race and culture and nationality and time that Christ accomplished for us.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

B. Work of reconciliation, 5:18, 19, 21

4. Reconciliation points to the Sinless One, "who knew no sin," be made sin on our behalf.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

1. We are declared to be "a new creature" or "new creation."

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

2. The newness of the new creature is stated: "the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) ...the old has gone, the new has come!

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

2. The newness of the new creature is stated: "the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Galatians 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

3. In v.19, "not counting their trespasses against them," refers to the divine accounting method.

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

3. In v.19, "not counting their trespasses against them," refers to the divine accounting method.

Romans 8:1 (NIV) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

4. But further, v.21 tells us that He exchanges His righteousness for our sin: "so that we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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II. RECONCILIATION BY GOD

C. Fruit of reconciliation, 5:17, 19, 21

4. But further, v.21 tells us that He exchanges His righteousness for our sin: "so that we might become the righteousness of God."

Isaiah 53:9 (NIV) He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

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III. Ambassadors for God

A. God-entrusted ministry 5:18

2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

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III. Ambassadors for God

A. God-entrusted ministry 5:18

Romans 5:10-11 (NIV) ¹⁰ For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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III. Ambassadors for God

B. God-endowed ministry 5:19

2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV) that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

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III. Ambassadors for God

C. God-partnering ministry 5:20

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ambassador- *an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country.*

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