

Reflections from the CENTER FOR RECONCILIATION

The mission of the church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 855)

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

“By grace alone and because of Jesus, God has reconciled us to himself. The result of this cosmic reconciliation is that we now look at everything differently. We look at everything and **everyone** through the lens of reconciliation. We are ambassadors of reconciliation as we call others to believe in Jesus and so find themselves in a good relationship with God.....

“We are the bearers of God’s saving grace with the Holy Spirit living inside us.... Of *course* we do not ever think that broken relationships are no big deal. No! We are caught up in the grip of God’s cosmic reconciliation in Christ. Jesus died so that fractured relationships, dysfunctional families, lost friendships, and ruptured social circles could be restored.”

- What role does Jesus have in reconciliation?

“From a purely human point of view it’s easy to see alienation among people and chalk it up to just the way life goes. Things like that happen, we might conclude..... It’s the same all over. But the gospel screams God’s thunderous “No!” to that kind of casual dismissal of alienation.”

- How does the church understand reconciliation?

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- What role does Jesus have in reconciliation?

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- How does the church understand reconciliation?

“A contemporary theologian who has done a tremendous amount of thinking about reconciliation is Miroslav Volf. He once wrote that in God’s heavenly kingdom, it cannot be just impersonal forces of evil that are done away with. It cannot be just the entire creation, broadly conceived, which gets reconciled with its God. No, Volf says, it has to get more specific than that. Before we can all dwell happily together in the shalom of God’s kingdom there needs to be real reconciliation between earthly enemies. Perpetrators and victims must embrace. There can be no peace in God’s kingdom so long as there is anyone there who would just as soon cross over to the other side of a golden street in order to avoid you.”

Scott Hoezee, Center for Excellence in Preaching

- How does the church do the work of reconciliation?

The mission of the Center for Reconciliation is to confront the history and legacies of slavery and the slave trade in order to build respectful and equitable relationships. We seek to change hearts and minds through collaboration focused on learning, healing and justice.

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