

WHY

QUESTIONS THAT DESERVE ANSWERS

PART 7

“WHY... THE GOSPEL IS OUR ONLY MESSAGE!”

“Our Singular Assignment: The Ministry of Reconciliation”

(2 Corinthians 5:14-21)

INTRODUCTION:

PREVIOUSLY, FROM EPHESIANS 2:11-22:

“...[that He] might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross...”

—Ephesians 2:16

“...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.”

—Ephesians 2:18

- Paul's Greater Hope: That we might come to a greater understanding and experience of the life-changing community that the Father has PURPOSED for us, that Christ has PROVIDED for us, and that the Spirit makes POSSIBLE for us. To know that we are not only REDEEMED, but RECONCILED.

1. REMEMBER What You Were (“Formerly”): EXCLUDED (2:11, 12)

“Therefore remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh...”

2. RECOGNIZE What He's Done (“But Now”): RECONCILED (2:13-18)

“But now in Christ Jesus you... have been brought near by the blood of Christ...”

3. REALIZE What You Are (“So Then”): INCLUDED (2:19-22)

5 KEY TERMS THAT DESCRIBE OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD:

- A “BEFORE AND AFTER”

1. _____ : WE STAND BEFORE GOD AS _____,
_____ BOUND BY THE SHACKLES OF OUR SIN. YET..., HE _____
US FROM OUR BONDAGE, _____ OUR LIBERTY.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...”

—Galatians 3:13

2. _____ : WE STAND BEFORE GOD AS _____,
_____ FROM THE FAMILY OF GOD. YET..., HE _____
MAKES US SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN HIS NEW _____.

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

—Galatians 3:26

3. _____ : WE STAND BEFORE GOD AS _____ ,
_____ AND ETERNALLY INDEBTED BEFORE A RIGHTEOUS & HOLY GOD.
YET..., HE _____ US FROM OUR _____ .

"And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt."

—Matthew 18:27

4. _____ : WE STAND BEFORE GOD AS _____ ,
_____ BEFORE THE DIVINE BAR OF JUSTICE. YET..., HE _____
US OF ALL _____ .

*"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."*

—2 Corinthians 5:21

5. _____ : WE STAND BEFORE GOD AS _____ ,
_____ TO HIM AND AT ODDS WITH HIM. YET..., HE _____ US,
REMOVING THE _____ BY MEANS OF THE CROSS.

"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ..."

—2 Corinthians 5:21

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ..."

1A. AS AMBASSADORS, WE HAVE ONE ULTIMATE _____ : (5:16-18)

"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation..."

• *With a new _____ .*

"Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh..." (v. 16)

2A. AS AMBASSADORS, WE HAVE ONE ULTIMATE _____ : (5:19-20)

"...namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ...as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

• *We need to see evangelism not primarily as something we do _____ Him,
but something He does _____ us.*

3A. AS AMBASSADORS, WE HAVE ONE ULTIMATE _____ : (5:14-15)

"For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

CONCLUSION: