

Series: The Gospel of Freedom and the Things That Hinder

Message: "The Reconciliation Antidote"

Colossians 1:15-23

Central Thought: *Reconciliation means that by His death and resurrection, Jesus has "rejected all rejection" in our lives and replaced it with the uncontested acceptance of God.*

Word bank: as, attach, be, block, edification, embrace, filter, filter, God, Kingdom, Psalms, reason, reflect, rehearse, rejected, restored, to, ultimate, world

- 1) What does reconciliation mean?
 - A **restored** relationship with God.
 - God's eternal, unconditional approval.
 - Three kinds of reconciliation:
 - Us to **God**. Colossians 1:21-22;
Romans 5:6-11
 - Us to one another. Ephesians 2:14-15
 - Us to the **world**. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
 - God has **rejected** all the rejection in our lives and given us His complete approval.
- 2) How does reconciliation counter disapproval?
 - It points us back to God's approving voice.
Zephaniah 3:17; Mark 1:11
 - It is a **filter** for criticism to discern the truth.
- 3) How does reconciliation help us face approval?
 - It points us back to God's **reason** for approval.
 - It filters out flattery and compliments and gives us the truth of **edification**.
 - It turns us from living **to be** approved, toward living **as** approved.
1 Thessalonians 2:6; 2 Timothy 2:15
- 4) What is the risk of relationships?
 - The approval of people can **attach** us to people rather than to Christ.
 - The disapproval of people can **block** the approving voice of God in our lives.
 - All meaningful and lasting relationships have a **Kingdom** purpose.
- 5) What is God's purpose for relationships?
 - To point us back to our **ultimate** and created relationship with God.
 - To **reflect** God's approval of us and work in our lives.
- 6) How can we implement this antidote?
 - **Embrace** God's approval.
 - **Filter** the horizontal through the vertical.
 - **Rehearse** the reconciliation of the Father.
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a
 - Replace "love" with "my Father".
 - Pray the **Psalms** out loud.
 - Reflect reconciliation to other Christians and pre-Christians. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a;
Colossians 4:6
 - Replace "My Father" with your name.

For LIFE Groups and personal reflection

- 1) What does reconciliation to God look like in your life? What does it feel like?
- 2) How are relationships in the Church a reflection of our reconciliation to God?
- 3) How does God's reconciliation with the world change the way we engage pre-Christians?
- 4) What are some ways that you experience God's approval of you?
- 5) What devotional disciplines help you to affirm God's approval of you?