

How to Work Together with God

2 Corinthians 6-7

1/21/18

The Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us **the ministry of reconciliation**,

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

How to Work Together with God in the ministry of reconciliation

1. Warn about delay

2 Corinthians 6:1 And **working together with Him**, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain--

² for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, And on the day of salvation I helped you"; behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation "--

2. Be an example of sacrifice

³ giving no cause for offense in anything, in order that the ministry be not discredited,

3. Be an example of servanthood

⁴ but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,

⁵ in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,

⁶ in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

⁷ in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

⁸ by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true;

⁹ as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death,

¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

4. Be affectionate and genuine

¹¹ Our mouth has spoken freely to you, O Corinthians, our heart is opened wide.

¹² You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections.

¹³ Now in a like exchange-- I speak as to children-- open wide *to us* also.

5. Warn about corrupting influences

¹⁴ Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

¹⁵ Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

¹⁶ Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

¹⁷ "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.

¹⁸ "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

6. Communicate love and trust

² Make room for us *in your hearts*; we wronged no one, we corrupted no one, we took advantage of no one.

³ I do not speak to condemn you; for I have said before that you are in our hearts to die together and to live together.

⁴ Great is my confidence in you, great is my boasting on your behalf; I am filled with comfort. I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction.

⁵ For even when we came into Macedonia our flesh had no rest, but we were afflicted on every side: conflicts without, fears within.

⁶ But God, who comforts the depressed, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

⁷ and not only by his coming, but also by the comfort with which he was comforted in you, as he reported to us your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me; so that I rejoiced even more.

7. With love and trust correct each other

⁸ For though I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it-- *for* I see that that letter caused you sorrow, though only for a while--

⁹ I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of* repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of* God, in order that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

¹⁰ For the sorrow that is according to *the will of* God produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

8. Affirm godly repentance

¹¹ For behold what earnestness this very thing, this godly sorrow, has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what avenging of wrong! In everything you demonstrated yourselves to be innocent in the matter.

9. Trust godly repentance to restore relationships

¹² So although I wrote to you *it was* not for the sake of the offender, nor for the sake of the one offended, but that your earnestness on our behalf might be made known to you in the sight of God.

10. Edify one another

¹³ For this reason we have been comforted. And besides our comfort, we rejoiced even much more for the joy of Titus, because his spirit has been refreshed by you all.

¹⁴ For if in anything I have boasted to him about you, I was not put to shame; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, so also our boasting before Titus proved to be *the* truth.

¹⁵ And his affection abounds all the more toward you, as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.

¹⁶ I rejoice that in everything I have confidence in you.