

Made Holy and Without Blemish

Col. 1:19-23

Scripture describes believers in a number of different ways: we are called children of God, Saints, loved by God, children of the kingdom, children of Abraham, children of the light, children of the day, children of the resurrection, chosen ones, chosen vessels, elect of God, disciples of Christ, heirs of God, coheirs with Christ, a holy priesthood, kingdom of priests, members of Christ, a peculiar people, the Lord's freeman, Christ's slaves, bond servants, holy, blameless, without blemish, free from accusation and so much more.

Those who don't know Jesus have other names for those who are sold out for Jesus. We are seen as religious, weak, odd, peculiar, dumb, fanatical, Jesus freaks and so on. What matters most is how Jesus sees us. That is why it is imperative that we understand who we are in Christ. The more we understand our standing before Him, the more it will change how we view His church, ourselves, and one another.

- I. Paul writes to the church in Colossae to deepen our spiritual wisdom and understanding concerning who we are in Christ. He revealed to the saints the knowledge of God's will regarding reconciliation, so that we ourselves would take to heart how God sees all believers who have been reconciled to him through his Son Jesus Christ. He also informs us of how he sees those who refuse to be reconciled to him through Jesus blood shed on the cross.

Col. 1:19-22

Rom 5:12

Rom 3:23

Rom 6:23

Phil 2:5-11

Col 5:16-19

Reconcile, Reconciliation: *to reconcile completely, "to change from one condition to another," so as to remove all enmity and leave no impediment to unity and peace. Vine's*

- A. Those who are not reconciled to God remain alienated from God because of sin. The barrier of sin keeps all unbelievers in a constant state of animosity toward God's holiness by how they think and act.

Col. 1:21

Rom 8:20-22

Rom 8:7-8

2 Pe 1:3

John 3:16-21

"Just as a medical examination and pathology can reveal a deadly disease in a person who insists that he is 'just fine', so the gospel reveals the true state of affairs for those who are still apart from Christ, as we all once were." Woodhouse

*"The ancient Greek word translated **alienated** (apellotriomenous) is literally 'transferred to another owner.' This transfer of ownership, from God to Satan and self, has affected us in both mind and behavior." Guzik*

- B. Those who are reconciled to God are at peace with God. Their sin has been removed as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:11-13); it is no longer a barrier to God's holiness and righteousness. Reconciliation replaces the character of sin with the character of Christ in all his holiness, which presents all believers before God without blemish and free from accusation.

Col 1:22

1 Cor 2:12-16

1 Cor 1:8

- II. Reconciliation's effect is meant to compel all believers to live in ways that strongly reflect our standing before God. A true heartfelt commitment to Christ is to be seen by a steadfast walk with him, not a perfect walk, but a steadfast enduring walk of faith.

Col 1:23

Phil 1:27

"If the gospel teaches the final perseverance of the saints, it teaches at the same time that the saints are those who finally persevere - in Christ. Continuance is the test of reality." (Bruce)