



The Story Behind The Story
2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NIV)
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2 Corinthians 5:18-21

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:17 (MSG)

“God didn’t send me out to collect a following for myself, but to preach the Message of what he has done, collecting a following for him. And he didn’t send me to do it with a lot of fancy rhetoric of my own, lest the powerful action at the center—Christ on the Cross—be trivialized into mere words.”

What is an ambassador?

An ambassador is “the highest ranking diplomatic representative appointed by one country or government to represent it in another.”

1. Through Christ, God “Bridged the Gap”

This is reconciliation.

Jeremiah 13:23

“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.”

Romans 5:10-11

“For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

2. Through Christ, I Am Not Guilty

This is justification.

Philippians 3:9

“[I am] found in [Christ], not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

Acts 16:31

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

1 Peter 2:24

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”