

A Prescription for Reconciliation

The 2001- 2003 Synodical theme, “Building Bridges of Reconciliation and Hope” is one that asserts that all is not well in the way we relate to one another, that there is a better way to relate to one another, and that it is within our power to do something about it.

A careful look at what is taking place in our society reveals that things are being done, things are being said and things are being left unsaid that needs to be said. This unconsidered or irresponsible manner of conduct is largely responsible for the building up of barriers in our relationships, leaving vacuums in our society, far too wide to be filled. The quest to build bridges of reconciliation and hope ought to high on our agenda. It is with this in mind that not only the WF, but also all of us needs to give this theme some prominence for this year.

DEFINITION – To reconcile means to replace hostility and separation with peace and friendship.

I. Godly People Practice the skill of Reconciliation.

God had promised David that he would someday be King, but when Saul heard of it, he decided to Kill David before it could happen. David had to flee for his life, living in caves and deserts, while soldiers searched without ceasing for the privilege of killing. Saul took 3,000 of his special forces soldiers and headed for the desert. 3,000 of the meanest men you would never want to meet!

David had followers and friends and in order to love him they too had to be on the run. He could not live with his family. He could not love his wife or watch his patents grow old.

The day finally came when something unbelievable happened: riding through the region, hunting Davis, the king and his army had gotten close. David and his men retreat into the depth of a cave, holding their breath and hoping desperately that Saul would ride on by. But Saul stopped. He enters the cave, David and his men watched in disbelief. After being blinded by the sunlight he has just left Saul unwrapped his robe in order to cool down. David slips forward with sword in hand and cuts off a small piece of the robe, and returns to his men.

B&S, there are times when we are treated with injustice.

- You are unjustly accused by someone
- You are overlooked for that promotion you deserve.
- Your spouse takes your love and work for granted, and never thinks of your sacrifice.
- Your friends hear a rumor, and believe the story instead of believing you. Even though you are innocent they keep far from you.
- After doing your best at a task you realize that your contribution is not appreciated.

These things will happen because we live in a fallen world filled with sin. We are tempted in those times to scream that life is unfair, we complain, our minds are filled with bitterness. Others will encourage us to take revenge. It will do us no good.

David teaches us a something today, seize the opportunity of your enemy's weakness ... Love them. Spare them. Try to reconcile with them.

See paper!!!

II. GOD TAUGHUS RECONCILIATION WHEN HE SAVED US.

Jesus came to save this fallen world, and he was treated with injustice. When he deserved worship, love and acceptance, he was given coolness, hatred and rejection. He never complain.

Instead, Jesus focused on God's plan – that of reconciling people to God. He focused on God's plan for his life instead of his own discomforts

That is why...
All the cruelty of people could not make him cruel.

- They hated him but he loved them
- They mocked him and he prayed for them
- They arrested him and he heal them
- he was sentenced to death – he spoke kindly to them

- they hung him naked in the air and he said “Father forgive them.”

Listen to an eye witness...

1Pet. 2:23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

What a beautiful act of reconciliation God created for us.

Have you accepted Gods wonderful offer, and permitted the sacrifice of Jesus to pave the way for you to be reconciled to God?

He ignored His own discomfort, and took a risk of rejection when he died to save us. But we are worth it to him.

That is why...

iii. God is pleased when we are reconciled to Him and others.

Rom. 14: 19-19 – READ

Blessed are the peacemakers... people who make peace between enemies, and people who make peace between sinners and God.

I watch the news every day, and I see where there is no peace no hope.

On a global scale, the world is being run by kings and lords who fight each other for the place of prominence at the table. This is a s a result of them rejecting the Prince of peace.

I believe that some day soon, all those who have fought for peace, and sought for peace, will see the Prince of Peace who has come to reconcile us once and for all.

But until that day comes, we have a duty to fulfill. We must seek peace and pursue it.

- When we know of people who hate each other and are enemies, we must pray and work to bring them together.
- If someone hates you, we must love them as David did Saul. By making a decision that you will never harm them... even if they are trying to harm you.
- If there is some one in your life who is far from God, pray and encourage that one to come to know Christ and be at peace with God.

This is what building bridges of R&H is all about this is what God wants us to be and do.

AMEN
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