

## The Ministry of Reconciliation

James 5:19-20

February 28, 2010

18<sup>th</sup> in James Series

### Reconciliation is a ministry

*II Cor 5:18-19 Now all things are of God, who has **reconciled us** to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has Given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and **has committed to us the word of reconciliation.***

### To do this ministry effectively, keep in mind that:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> - People can and do stray from the truth

*James 5:19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back*

*Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

#### Why do people stray?

##### They may be deceived

*II John 7 For many **deceivers** have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

##### They may have put their faith in a false savior

*Mark 13:21-22 **Then if anyone** says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, '**Look, He is there!**' **do not believe it.** For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders **to deceive**, if possible, even the elect.*

##### They may not be christians

*I John 2:19 They went out from us, **but they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.*

##### They may have given into temptations

Alexander, the coppersmith - tempted by \_\_\_\_\_

*II Tim 4:14-15 Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words.*

Demas - tempted by \_\_\_\_\_

*II Tim 4:10a for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world*

Judas - tempted by \_\_\_\_\_

*John 13:27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."*

## They may have given up

*John 3:21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."*

## But for whatever reason - rejection has occurred

*John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

[See parable of the prodigal son and elder brother - Luke 15]

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - The stakes are high and consequences eternal

*James 5:20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way **will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.***

### Costly for the person straying

*I Cor 11:29-30 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason **many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.***

*Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

### Costly for the church left behind

*Ecc 9:18 but one sinner **destroys** much good.*

### Lost service

*I Cor 12:15, 21 If the **foot** should say, "Because I am **not a hand**, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? ... And the **eye cannot** say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the **feet**, "I have no need of you."*

### Lost truth

*II Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*

### Lost witness

*Matt 6:23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, **how great is that darkness!***

## 3<sup>rd</sup> - The mission of the church is clear

*James 5:20 let him know that he who **turns a sinner from the error of his way** will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.*

### The mandate - make disciples

*Matt 28:19 Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations,*

## The message - the Gospel

*Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to **seek** and to **save** that which was lost.*

## The means - preach the Word

*II Tim 4:2-5 **Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

*John 8:31 If you abide in My word, **you are My disciples indeed.***

## Five commitments to reconciliation

### 1. Love

*Prov 10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, but **love covers all sins.***

*I Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "**love will cover a multitude of sins.**"*

### 2. Integrity

*Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, **you who are spiritual** restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

### 3. Prayer

*I John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, **he will ask**, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death.*

### 4. Confrontation

*Matt 18:15a "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault*

*Acts 20:31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years **I did not cease to warn everyone** night and day with tears.*

*Ezekiel 3:18 When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.*

### 5. Discipline

*Matt 18:15b-17 go and tell him his fault between you and him alone if he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.*

## Things to do: