

2 Corinthians 5:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

Analysis

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ—Ta de panta ek tou Theou tou katalaxantos hēmas heautō dia Iēsou Christou (τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ καταλλάξαντος ἡμᾶς ἑαυτῷ διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ). Ek tou Theou (ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ, "from God") identifies God as new creation's source—grace initiative, not human achievement. Katallassō (καταλλάσσω) means "to reconcile, restore relationship between estranged parties." Katalaxantos (καταλλάξαντος, aorist participle) emphasizes God's completed action. Reconciliation assumes prior alienation—sin made us God's enemies (Romans 5:10). God initiates and accomplishes reconciliation through Christ's mediating work.

And hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation—Kai dontos hēmin tēn diakoniam tēs katallagēs (καὶ δόντος ἡμῖν τὴν διακονίαν τῆς καταλλαγῆς). Diakonia (διακονία) means "service, ministry." Katallagē (καταλλαγή, noun form) is reconciliation itself. God doesn't merely save us but commissions us—reconciled people become reconcilers. This ministry belongs to all believers (not just apostles)—we are reconciliation's agents, announcing what God accomplished and inviting others into restored relationship. This is evangelism's heart: not recruiting for religion but announcing peace treaty between God and humanity.

Historical Context

Ancient diplomacy used ambassadors to negotiate peace between warring nations. Paul applies this political metaphor to gospel ministry—Christians are heaven's embassy on earth, announcing peace terms. This was bold: calling Rome's subjects to submit to higher King, offering amnesty to divine rebels. Early Christianity was political revolution cloaked in religious language.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Do you genuinely grasp that God initiated reconciliation while you were His enemy—how does this fuel evangelistic passion?
2. How are you stewarding the "ministry of reconciliation" God entrusted to you—who needs to hear about restored relationship with God?
3. Are you living as reconciliation's agent in your relationships—pursuing peace and restoration as God pursued you?

Interlinear Text

τῆς δὲ πάντα ἐκ τῆς θεοῦ τῆς καταλλάξαντος ἡμᾶς
who And all things are of who God who hath reconciled us
G3588 G1161 G3956 G1537 G3588 G2316 G3588 G2644 G2248

ἑαυτῷ διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ δόντος ἡμῖν τῆς
to himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us who
G1438 G1223 G2424 G5547 G2532 G1325 G2254 G3588

διακονίαν τῆς καταλλαγῆς
the ministry who of reconciliation
G1248 G3588 G2643

Additional Cross-References

1 John 4:10 (References God): Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:1 (References Jesus): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 11:36 (Parallel theme): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

1 John 2:2 (Parallel theme): And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (References Jesus): But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

John 3:16 (References God): For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Luke 24:47 (Parallel theme): And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Hebrews 2:17 (References God): Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Isaiah 52:7 (References God): How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Acts 10:36 (References Jesus): The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

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