

Romans 5:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Analysis

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son—Paul introduces καταλλαγή (katallagē, 'reconciliation'), the removal of enmity and restoration of relationship. The term implies previous hostility: we weren't neutral parties but ἔχθροι (echthroi, 'enemies'), actively opposed to God (8:7). God effects reconciliation through His Son's death—the offended party pays the cost to reconcile the offenders.

Much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life—another a fortiori argument. If Christ's death secured reconciliation when we were enemies, His resurrection life guarantees completed salvation now that we're reconciled. En tē zōē autou (ἐν τῇ ζωῇ αὐτοῦ, 'by/in his life') likely refers to Christ's resurrection life, His ongoing intercession (8:34, Hebrews 7:25), and believers' union with His life.

Historical Context

Reconciliation language had both personal and political overtones in the Greco-Roman world—enemies becoming friends, warring nations making peace. Paul applies this to humanity's relationship with God, but with a stunning inversion: typically the offending party must appease the offended, but here God reconciles enemies to Himself at cost to Himself. This challenged both Jewish assumptions

about righteous Israel versus sinful Gentiles and pagan notions of appeasing angry deities through human effort.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding yourself as a reconciled former 'enemy' differ from thinking of yourself as a basically good person needing minor improvement?
2. What does it mean that God initiated reconciliation rather than waiting for you to make peace with Him?
3. If Christ's resurrection life guarantees your final salvation, how should that affect your battle with ongoing sin?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	γὰρ	ἐχθροὶ	οἱ	ντες	καταλλαγέντες	τῷ	θεῷ	διὰ
if	For	enemies	when we were		being reconciled	G3588	to God	by
G1487	G1063	G2190		G5607		G2644	G2316	G1223
τοῦ	θανάτου	τοῦ	υἱοῦ	αὐτοῦ·	πολλῷ	μᾶλλον		
G3588	the death	G3588	Son	his	much	more		
	G2288		G5207	G846	G4183	G3123		
καταλλαγέντες	σωθησόμεθα	ἐν	τῇ	ζωῇ	αὐτοῦ·			
being reconciled	we shall be saved	by	G3588	life	his			
G2644	G4982	G1722		G2222	G846			

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:32 (Parallel theme): He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Ephesians 2:16 (References God): And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Hebrews 7:25 (Salvation): Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Romans 8:7 (References God): Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 8:34 (References God): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Leviticus 6:30 (Parallel theme): And no sin offering, whereof any of the blood is brought into the tabernacle of the congregation to reconcile withal in the holy place, shall be eaten: it shall be burnt in the fire.

Daniel 9:24 (Parallel theme): Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

John 14:19 (Parallel theme): Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.