

Sermon #4: Like a Diamond

9.28.2025

BREAKING THE ICE

Can you share a time when a broken relationship in your life was restored? How did that change the relationship?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH: Reconciliation and Acceptance

The final *Like a Diamond* sermon ends with the reconciliation found only through Jesus Christ. The Bible reveals that sin created a separation between us and God, but through Christ we are made new to live restored lives through Him. Reconciliation is not only God's work for us—it becomes our calling as His people to others.

The Problem (Our separation from God): Ephesians 2:13

1. According to Ephesians 2:13, what has changed in our relationship with God because of Christ?
2. Why is the phrase, "you who once were far away," significant in understanding human separation from God?

The Solution (God's initiation to reconcile): 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. Define reconciliation. In v18, who is the one who initiated reconciliation, why does that matter?
4. What does v19 say God no longer counts against us? Why is that significant in the life of a believer?
5. What does it mean that God has "committed to us the message of reconciliation"? What does this look like for the believer today? (reference 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 1 Corinthians 9:16–17 and Colossians 1:25–28).

The Welcome (How reconciliation leads to acceptance): Romans 5:10-11, John 1:12

6. In Romans 5:10, how does Paul describe our heart posture towards God before reconciliation?
7. According to Romans 5:11, what is the believer's response to receiving reconciliation through Jesus?
8. Read John 1:12. What new identity do we receive when we believe in and receive Christ?

The Call (Living out reconciliation and acceptance): Romans 5:17, 2 Corinthians 5:20

9. Who is Paul referencing in Romans 5:17 when he says, "death reigned through that one man?" Contrast this man's sin to Christ's gift of salvation and grace.
What do believers "receive" in Christ that changes how we live?
10. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, how does Paul describe our role as an ambassador of Christ?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Christ is the one who initiated, secured, and extends reconciliation. He did not remain in Heaven to avoid the cost reconciliation would require. He came into this broken, sin-soaked world. How does this sacrificial, initiating act of reconciliation by Christ move you to do the same?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Do you see yourself as someone who was once “far away” from God but has now been brought near through Christ? If so, how does that truth shape your identity? If not, what keeps you from fully embracing it? (Ephesians 2:13)
2. Where do you see the effects of Adam’s sin—brokenness, guilt, or death—still playing out in your life? How can you intentionally receive and live from Christ’s gift of grace and righteousness in those places? (Romans 5:17)
3. How do you respond to the reality that God took the first step to reconcile you to Himself through Christ? Who has wronged you that you need to approach with an offer of reconciliation? (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God’s will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

- Who in your life is God calling you to share His message of reconciliation with, to be an ambassador of Christ? Share with your group what fears or hesitations holds you back and ask for prayer to help you begin to step into the role as ambassador for Christ.