

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:21-23

Once Alienated, Now Reconcile, Soon Holy

INTRODUCTION

BORN SINFUL (21)

RECONCILED BY JESUS (22A)

Denial

Save Ourselves

Be Redeemed

MADE HOLY (22B)

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

There's a past, present, and future component to this passage. Consequently, there's a past, present, and future big idea for this week as well: All people are born with a sinful nature (past), our only hope is to be reconciled by Jesus (present), and all who are reconciled will be made holy (future). And the main takeaways are to fight for humility, share the gospel, and hope in future grace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What are your thoughts on Paul's letter to the Colossians so far? What's been particularly helpful or challenging?
3. Is it easy for you to see why our view of our own nature has an enormous impact on our daily lives, political and religious convictions, relationships with those who think differently, and how the world is today?
4. Have you personally interacted with someone who rejects the idea that all people are naturally alienated from God? If so, how did that play out in their view of the world or in the way they live their life?
5. Can you explain the difference between measuring evil against one another vs. God?
6. What is one area in which you struggle to think things contrary to the teaching of God's Word?
7. Can you see how understanding your former alienation from God produces love for others and help in times of suffering?
8. Was there ever a time in your life in which you tried to deny your hostility, evil, and alienation from God?
9. In what ways have you or are you attempting to save yourself or make a "god" to do it for you?
10. Have you ever thought of Jesus' cross/blood/death grace as having zero [attenuation](#)!?
11. Which form of Jesus' reconciling grace is most awe inspiring to you: Jesus' rightness accredited to you or worked in you?
12. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

13. Read the chapter on the essential nature of man in [Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology](#), [Carl Truman's The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self](#) (or the shorter version, [Strange New World](#)), or [Thomas Sowell's A Conflict of Visions](#).
14. Do your best to meet and listen to someone who believes people are basically good.
15. Tell someone how they can be reconciled to God, by grace, through faith, in Jesus Christ.
16. Identify one way in which you are trusting in something other than Jesus, confess it, and with God's help, repent of it.
17. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
18. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

19. Adoration. Praise God that He is loving and gracious beyond measure. Praise God that He is holy, blameless, and entirely above reproach. Praise God that He is patient and kind. Praise God for being eternal and unchanging in His being.
20. Confession. Confess any false gods you have created in your life. Confess any ways in which you are denying your sin or the alienation it causes. Confess any ways you've been prideful in your relationship with God or others. Confess a lack of hope in future grace. Confess ways you lack the type or measure of joy that Jesus' redeeming work warrants.
21. Thanksgiving. Thank God for loving you enough to die for you and reconcile you to Him. Thank God for saving you while you were still His enemy. Thank God for not only canceling your debt, but also making you His beloved son or daughter.
22. Supplication. Ask God to reconcile someone you love. Ask God to fill our church with all of the gratitude, joy, faith, love, and obedience He deserves. Ask God to fill us with the hope of being made holy, blameless, and above reproach.