

# Sermon Discussion Guide




## “Reconciliation”

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Ray Cortese, April 4 & 5, 2015

### Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

### Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1 There is a God-shaped vacuum in every human heart. What do people try and fill that vacuum with? What have you tried to fill it with?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

#### RECONCILIATION ACCOMPLISHED

- 3 *Why is reconciliation with God needed?* Do you think people are basically good or basically bad? Ray used the terms mutiny and divorce to explain what we have done to God. Why did he choose those terms?
- 4 *How is reconciliation with God possible?* How is Christianity different from every other world religion when it comes to how a person gets right with God?

- 5 Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. How would you explain the meaning of this verse to a person who is unfamiliar with the Bible or Christianity? Why is the day that Jesus Christ was executed on the cross called “Good” Friday?

### RECONCILIATION APPLIED

- 6 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if *anyone* is in Christ, he is a new creation.” Does this verse really mean *anyone*? Can someone be too bad for redemption?
- 7 *A new love*. John called himself, “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Do you see yourself primarily as the one whom Jesus loves? How would seeing yourself this way change the way you experience life?
- 8 *A new mission*. How is our culture drowning in self-absorption? How does becoming a Christian change the way you think about “the good life”?
- 9 *A new future*. How is the ultimate trajectory of the Christian’s life different from that of the non-Christian? Who is someone you are looking forward to reuniting with in eternity?
- 10 Did someone who you invited to Easter service actually come? If so, what did they think?

### Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?