

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Standing on the Promises of God - -

Isaiah 65:24 It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

Matthew 5:23-26 - *The importance of reconciliation. . .*

- ✓ Remember the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus Christ's inaugural address as king to the nation Israel.
- ✓ The Lord raised the standard of righteousness from that of the Pharisees by including **mental attitude sins** and **sins of the tongue** as being equally condemning to the **overt sin** of murder.
- ✓ The Lord communicates that His kingdom subjects must be reconciled before worship is acceptable to God.

23 "Therefore, if you are presenting your gift/sacrificial offering at the altar and there recall to mind that your brother has *done* something against you, **24** **leave** your offering there before the altar and **go**; first **be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

- ✓ The righteous subject living in Christ's kingdom will seek reconciliation with those who have wronged him prior to worship.
- ✓ This is Christ's protocol for those living in His kingdom when He establishes it on earth.

25 "Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

POD - Christ's protocol for the kingdom subject is to initiate reconciliation whether he is right or wrong.

- If you initiate reconciliation, whether the victim of wrong doing or the wrongdoer, what are you?
 - ✓ **Peacemaker** – **Blessed are the peacemakers**
- What does it require to initiate reconciliation whether the victim or the wrongdoer?
 - ✓ **Humility** – **Blessed are the humble**
- What is the one who initiates reconciliation thirsty for?
 - ✓ **Righteousness** – **Blessed are those who thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied**

On the way to court, the wrongdoer initiates reconciliation and you withhold that which he deserves even though he deserves to be taken to the cleaners - who are you then?

- ✓ A **merciful** kingdom subject – **Blessed are the merciful**

26 "Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there [*prison*] until you have paid up the last cent.

POD - It is better to admit you are wrong, ask for mercy and reconcile, than go to court.

Matthew 5:48

48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Question - Who is the wrongdoer in the relationship between God and man?

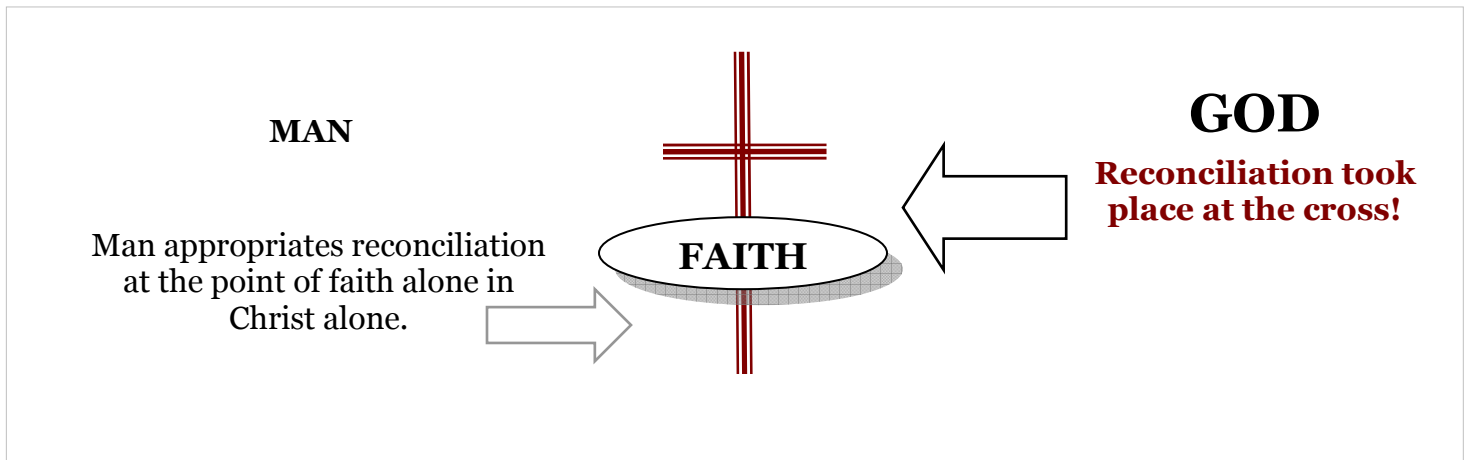
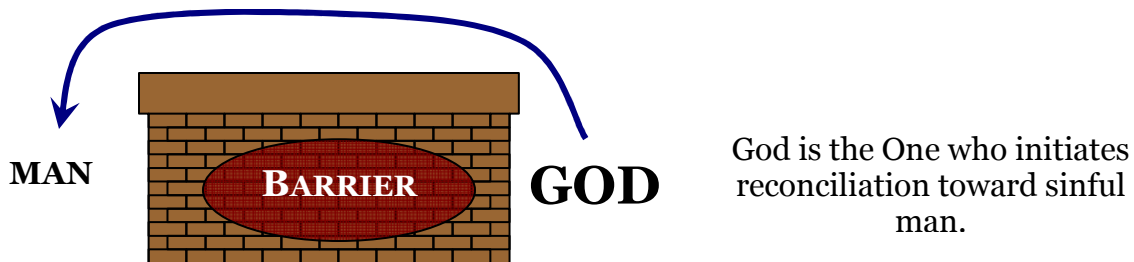
- ⇒ Man!
- ⇒ Man offends God with sin because all sin is offensive to God.

Question - Who initiated reconciliation between God and man?

- ⇒ God!
- ⇒ God did not have to because He is holy and righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

18 Now all *these* things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.



POD - The righteous kingdom subject who initiates reconciliation will not count the sin of his brother against him.

It is the HUMBLE who initiates!
God initiates!

2nd Subject: Kingdom standard regarding Adultery

Matthew 5:27-30

“You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’;

- ✓ 7th Commandment (Exodus 20:14)

- ✓ The Pharisees taught this and as long as one did not engage in the physical act, you were considered righteous by their standards.

Jesus Christ raises the standard of righteousness.

28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with **lust** for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- ✓ The eye is a window to the heart.
- ✓ The problem is not the **eye**, it's the **heart** because that is where sin is conceived

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Matthew 5:20 - -

“For I say to you that unless your **righteousness** surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“Lust” - ἐπιθυμέω – EPITHUEMO – “*To desire or to long for what you see*”

This is God’s righteous standard.

- **LADIES** - Have you ever been angry at someone?
- **GENTLEMEN** – Have you ever desired a woman other than your own?

Either violates God’s righteous standard and is sufficient to convict you in God’s court.

22 “But I say to you that everyone who is **angry** with his brother shall be guilty before the court;

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

There’s the only place you can receive forgiveness for your sins – **THE CROSS!**

29 “If your right **eye** makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Even a blind man can lust – tearing out his eye will not solve his problem. All of us are equally hopeless - it is the **heart** that is desperately sick.

30 “If your **right hand** makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”

“Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.”

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.