



DEVOTION FOR THE WEEK

Ministry of Reconciliation

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Praise the Lord, the ministry of reconciliation is a gift of God to everyone. The parable of the one lost sheep, the prodigal son, and the great banquet speaks about the reconciliation between God and man. God is the one who initiated the reconciliation by sacrificing His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem our sins so that we are once again reconciled back to God.

When reconciliation happens between God and man, an incredible transformation takes place. In the book of 2 Corinthians 5:17, it describes the transformation, ***"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*** In other words, the ministry of reconciliation does not stop at salvation, but gets to cascade to church members. God's love empowered us to seek reconciliation if there are any misunderstandings, hurt, unforgiveness, or lack of peace. We no longer hold on to our pride and look after our interests. The love of God has overwhelmed us to love another.

For this reason, the great commandment is not only ***"Love the Lord***

your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... but also goes hand in hand with ***"Love your neighbour as yourself."*** Our love for God is only half-baked if we do not love one another. Therefore, the ministry of reconciliation does not stop at salvation. If we are truly connected to Jesus, the Holy Spirit will enable us to mend any broken relationship that may hinder our love for God.

Are there areas in your life where you are experiencing hurt and disappointment? Do you find it difficult to release forgiveness? Have you been unkind to someone through words, thoughts and actions?

Put reconciliation as your top priority because God has ordained it. Do not be deceived by the devil to allow divisions to remain because he is here to destroy what God has built. God alone will fill our love tank to forgive one another. God alone will soften our hearts and humble us to seek reconciliation. All of us belong to the ministry of reconciliation. Let us pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the ministry of reconciliation. It has given us the strength to seek peace with one another. It is not by our strength but by your amazing love that moves us to reconcile with one another. Help us to let go of our pride because it goes against your commandment to love one another. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Ps Kelvin