I KNOW WHO I AM

A Minister of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18

We are now a divided people… longing for unity and unable to find it in the dysfunction of today's society. We find ourselves more and more living in the "divided states of America" rather than the United States of America.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."
June 16, 1858 — Abraham Lincoln; Mark 3:25 —Jesus

Reconciled To God

- But Jesus entered our world to end the conflict, to restore unity between God and sinners.

Romans 5:8, 10 (NIV) *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.…[10]For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.*

- Each person must receive the terms of reconciliation:

Romans 10:9 (NIV) *"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

We Become Ministers Of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (NIV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! [18]All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: [19]that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

- The ministry of reconciliation is the continuation of Jesus' ministry here on earth—to reconcile people with God.

How Do We Live As Ministers Of Reconciliation?

- Like Christ, a minister of reconciliation plunges into the midst of human tumult to bring harmony out of chaos, reconciliation out of estrangement, and love in the place of hate.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*

- As ambassadors for Christ, we represent Jesus to the world around us. Especially in this day of social distancing, we must each do our part.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV) *We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*

Philippians 2:13 (NIV) We are not alone - *for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.*

We Shall Not Fail

- God has promised His words will accomplish what He intends.

Isaiah 55:11 (NIV) *"so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

- If we deliver that message in loving actions and words, then through the power of the Holy Spirit "we shall not fail" to move others toward reconciliation with God in accordance with His great plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:9 (NIV) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

Have You Been Reconciled to God?

David Fannon, Associate Pastor/Whitehall Campus
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