

13. Jesus is the Reconciler

The Webster's 1828 defines reconcile as "to call back into union and friendship the affections which have been alienated; to restore to friendship or favor after estrangement." This wonderful word stems from two Latin roots, con (with, together) and calo (to call) which means to call back into union.

Jesus, by taking our sin upon Himself, calls and restores us to union with our Father. Our sins had separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2) but Jesus removed this barrier.

For the Joy

"Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross." (Hebrews 12:2)

I have often wondered what the joy was that helped Jesus to endure the cross. We know that Jesus loved His Father with a divine perfect love and affection. We are also cognizant that Jesus loves us, even when we are unlovable. As I was meditating on the love Jesus has for us, and for His Dad, it dawned on me. His huge unselfish heart was not thinking of Himself, He was focusing on the joy we and the Father would have, when reconciled us. What greater joy could there be for Him than in reconciling the Father to His wayward prodigal children, and restoring His blind children to their Loving Creator Dad? This is the joy that motivated and constrained Christ. This expectation is what enabled Him to say, "not my will, but thine," putting His own interests and comfort aside for the supreme delight of seeing humanity to divinity called back into harmony. For Jesus, it was truly more blessed to give than to receive.

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) He died to see this joyful reunion take place.

"God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, He has brought you into His own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault." (Colossians 1:19-22 NLT)

Come Into His Presence with Singing

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Give Thanks unto Him

Thank you for bringing us to God

“Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the Spirit.” (1 Peter 3:18)

Thank you for reconciling and saving us.

“If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10)

Thank You for restoring us to our Dad.

“Now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:13)

Thank you for taking our place on the cross and dying for us.

“God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.” (2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT)

Thank you for loving us when we were naturally unlovable.

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Bless His Name: Jesus is the Reconciler

“Jesus, the **Founder and Perfecter of our Faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.” (Hebrews 12:2)

“After you have suffered a little while, the **God of all Grace**, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10)

“Thus says the LORD, your **Redeemer**, who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself.’” (Isaiah 44:24)