

## **God's Purpose: Sharing the Hope of Reconciliation**

**2 Cor. 5:17-21**

**Bob Young**

Where in our world is hope? Where is the opportunity to begin again?  
In Christ!

Is the church really a place where you can escape your past, and it never be brought up again? Is the church really a place where in Christ we are so new that the old is gone forever?

Is the church really a place where we are totally and completely re-created, transformed?

Yes, yes, yes.

It is the very purpose of God, reconciling, redeeming, restoring.

Sharing the hope of reconciliation requires that....

**\*1 We first be reconciled to God ourselves**

he reconciled us to himself through Christ.

I urge you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God.

**\*2 We accept the ministry of reconciliation.**

God was reconciling the world (not just us) to himself in Christ

God is able to "unreckon" sins against us, take them off the ledger, and concerning the next sins, never to put them on the ledger.

**\*3 That we accept and share the message of reconciliation.**

That we recognize we are ambassadors, God making his appeal through us.

That we implore and plead and persuade

I hope that....

He will be baptized

He/she will return to God

He/she will come home

He/she will place membership

He/she will ....

Tell them, verbalize it, write it, pray it, share it.

## **Conclusion**

Vs. 21: Is there any hope of genuine newness in Christ, indeed!

God made him who had no sin to be sin (sinfulness) for us—difficult theology. What does it mean? Here is a summary of the gospel. He is our sin offering, sacrifice, he bore our sins. He did not become sinful, but he carried sins not his own.

There is some kind of exchange involved here—God made it possible for us to be his righteousness, justified, declared righteous, and thus has restored relationship, reconciliation.

He identified with our sinfulness so that we could be identified with his righteousness, becoming the righteousness of God, not earned but declared.