

Beloved in Christ

When I talk about reconciliation, I am speaking

- ✦ Of Healing
- ✦ Of restoration
- ✦ Of redemption
- ✦ Of second, third, fourth, fifth chances
- ✦ Of recreating the kingdom of God or more precisely the Kin-dom of God
- ✦ I am speaking of a restoration to Eden
- ✦ When I speak of the need for reconciliation I am declaring that while we remain adversarial we will not achieve any of our mutually recognised goals.
- ✦ I am also lamentably confessing that there are at least 2 going on 60 million opposing South Africas and that we are not unlike two boxers in a ring each with one hand tied behind them – their best hand! – hoping for a knockout that would be completely unachievable.

Why should we embrace reconciliation?

Because this –All Saints - is the gateway to heaven with all that that means and brings with it.

Because we are citizens of heavens gateway – at least for the time being – more is expected of us because we have received much.

Because the very reason we resist reconciliation is precisely the reason why we need reconciliation and why it should be pursued.

Reconciliation is what God is doing in the world through The Chosen Ones from Abraham to Jesus and since Jesus through to you and me.

Furthermore, reconciliation with God is contingent upon reconciliation with humanity. “How can you love God who you cannot see when you do not love your neighbour who you can see?”

But these aspects of reconciliation are aspects of *base one*. Reconciliation has the potential to lift the discourse, the very action, to be more than just restoring a broken relationship. Reconciliation is the practice of putting people in their place: and that is always on higher ground

The human condition today has us occupying substitute places we call home or believe to be our true identity but they are far from being that. We are kept in this false home this partial plane where we “see in a mirror dimly but not face to face” and it is only God through the Chosen Ones who can clear this misconception.

Ultimately as Christians,” here we stand. We can do no other!”

Between where we are now and an end to crime and the facilitation of a quality education system, a quality healthcare system, and an end to poverty and unemployment stands reconciliation. It is at once the doorway into all that we dream of and the boulder on the path that impedes our advancement. The absence of reconciliation is the biggest obstacle to progress and 1994’s new South Africa.

There is nothing to commend reconciliation in South Africa today. So much water has passed under the bridge since liberation and so much damage has been done and the great casualty has been trust. The most contentious issue for most South Africans is crime. We – the non poor -have all been victims of crime and that makes us angry and afraid. Ending crime is contingent upon ending economic inequality and poverty and unemployment. It is also dependent upon young people understanding that you are more than your job or your profession but we are so far from ourselves that we believe in our capacity to earn more than who we really are. This is probably base one in the Reconciliation enterprise:

✦ **The reconciliation of a human being to her/ his true self in all its fullness.**

Base two has to do with prejudice:

- ✦ **Do you know your fellow citizens of South Africa or do you just follow the crowd and speak of “them”?**
- ✦ **Are you willing to let go of your opinion of “them” and encounter individuals who may change your mind?**
- ✦ **Are you willing to listen rather than be listened to?**
- ✦ **Are you willing to make the decision to encounter courageously rather than hide and invent demons?**

Base three has to do with a generosity of Spirit

- ✦ **People will always be people and will betray trust and behave badly. If your commitment to reconciliation is a grudging acquiescence you will find reasons not to participate based on this bad behaviour which is inevitable. We Christians understand that bad behaviour as a consequence of our fallen state as humans. A decision to press on in spite of the fallenness of your reconciliation partner is vital and it is a huge ask but it is what Jesus would do and the absolute essence of reconciliation. “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.”**
- ✦ **Believing in people in spite of themselves is the gift that we give each other that has us eventually believing in ourselves and in our higher selves as well as theirs.**
- ✦ **Now we begin to contribute to the formation of a new and present wave of Chosen Ones**
- ✦ **Consenting to be a reconciler is actually consenting to calling this best self out of all whom we encounter.**
- ✦ **That is living *reconciliatorily* and all that it means.**

God of all
Whose love for us all is infinite and breathtaking in its extent
Thank you
Of course when we experience that love we cannot but pass it on
When we do we are engaged in our greatest work –reconciliation
Help me to let go of reconciliation’s greatest enemy:
My ego
And help me to surrender to the great wave of your love and to love all those around me
Especially those who in my view least deserve it.
I realise that the decision to love is how your Kin-dom comes.
And I consent to do that too – to live as a Chosen One
Thank you for loving me in spite of myself

Selah. Amen