

Be A Man of Peace

Eric Ross / General

Man to Man / Men; Reconciliation; Peace / 2 Corinthians 5:19–21

A Man of Peace

Jesus is often called a man of peace. And there is a religious view that he always gave a soft answer and was always sweetly nice.

Psalm 85:10 LEB

¹⁰ Loyal love and faithfulness will meet one another; righteousness and peace will kiss.

Righteousness - doing what is required according to a standard (Swanson, J. (1997).

Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)

Peace - safeness, salvation, i.e., a state of being free from danger (Swanson, J. (1997).

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It's easy to put forgiveness and reconciliation on a back burner, but as Christ worked to reconcile us to God, we should also take up the challenge to be men of peace and reconciliation in our families and in our world.

2 Corinthians 5:19–21 LEB

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as *if* God were imploring *you* through us. We beg *you* on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made the one who did not know sin *to be* sin on our behalf, in order that we could become the righteousness of God in him.

A Man for the World

2 Corinthians 5:19 LEB

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting

their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

The World

Lets focus on the subject here: the world

“The Hebrew word used here, kosmos, refers to people estranged from God and under the influence of sin and the devil (see 4:4).” (Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). Faithlife Study Bible (2 Co 5:19). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)

The Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament κόσμος, ου, ὃ
the total world, when considered in spatial terms as world, is called κόσμος in the sense of “universe” “inasmuch as in it all individual things and creatures, heaven and earth, gods and men, are brought into unity by a universal order” (Sasse 871; cf. Plato Grg. 507e–508a; Ti.

2 Corinthians 4:4 LEB

⁴ among whom the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they would not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

These people in the world, the kosmos, are blind and cannot see “the light of the gospel”

Their Trespasses

From our main passage, “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them”

This word for trespasses here is παράπτωμα - lemma, paraptoma

The Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament παράπτωμα, ατος, τό
παράπτωμα is used of transgressions specifically of the righteous, god-fearing, and pious

Here are two examples of forgiving a “false step, slip, blunder”.

Matthew 6:14 LEB

¹⁴ For if you forgive people their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Galatians 6:1 LEB

¹ Brothers, even if a person is caught in some trespass, you *who are* spiritual restore such a person in a spirit of humility, looking out for yourself, lest you also

be tempted.

There is another word that might have been used, ἁμαρτωλός - hamartōlos

The Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament παράπτωμα, ατος, τό contrasted with ἁμαρτωλός, which causes damnation

Genesis 13:13 LEB

¹³ Now the men of Sodom were extremely wicked sinners against Yahweh.

This is a different meaning, this is being under the power or control of sin. It says it this way in

Romans 6:17–18 LEB

¹⁷ But thanks *be* to God that you were slaves of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart the pattern of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸ and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

Be at Peace with God

The arrival of Jesus was heralded by angels this way

Luke 2:14 LEB

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom he is pleased!"

Peace to those who accept Jesus Christ.

And this is what Jesus said before he left in

John 14:27 LEB

²⁷ "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you—not as the world gives, I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let *them* be afraid.

We have become the sons of God. We have entered in to God's kingdom. We have been accepted by God through Jesus Christ in

Romans 5:1 LEB

¹ Therefore, *because we* have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Since we are now citizens of Heaven and no longer under the dominion of sin and death, we have access to “the peace of God” in

Philippians 4:7 LEB

⁷ And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Become His Ambassadors of Peace

Jesus came with a plan. The plan was to break the power of sin and death and that began with His giving His life for ours.

Reconciliation

Jesus came to offer reconciliation.

John 1:12–13 LEB

¹² But as many as received him—to those who believe in his name—he gave to them authority to become children of God, ¹³ who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a husband, but of God.

This message has gone forward in every generation and is still the message we have for the world today.

Conviction

When Jesus left, and ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit who is working now, in our age.

This is what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit

John 16:8–11 LEB

⁸ And *when he* comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and concerning righteousness and concerning judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me, ¹⁰ and concerning righteousness, because I am going away to the Father and you will see me no more, ¹¹ and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

This is what the power of the Holy Spirit is about

To convict the world concerning sin

Believe in Jesus Christ “if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” Romans 10:8-11.

To convict the world concerning righteousness

Have faith in God who you can easily see because “from the creation of the world, his invisible attributes, both his eternal power and deity, are discerned clearly, being understood in the things created” Romans 1:18-20.

To convict the world concerning judgement

The ruler of this world is condemned, his temptation of Christ, “if you will worship before me, all this will be yours” Luke 4:6-7 is false.

Restoration

There is a day when Jesus Christ will return and it will not be with a message of reconciliation or conviction, it will be for judgement, for restoration.

Hebrews 1:8–9 LEB

⁸ but concerning the Son, “Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever, and the scepter of righteous *is the* scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; because of this God, your God, has anointed you with the olive oil of joy more than your companions.

The Lexham Bible Dictionary Hebrew Bible

in many places in the Hebrew Bible, righteousness has a strong forensic character and pertains to executing justice in the court of law and ensuring right treatment of persons in social frameworks (Lev 19:15; Deut 1:16–17; 16:18–20; 25:1).

Close

Jesus came with a message of reconciliation. We can be free from the dominion of sin. Through Jesus Christ we are sanctified, cleansed, forgiven and called to bring this message to the world.

Matthew 5:9 LEB

⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers, because they will be called sons of God.

The fruit of righteousness, the example of right living before God is a testimony to the world around us of the work that Jesus Christ has done.

Our admonition to the world, receive the gift of God, turns people from darkness, to the ways of life in Jesus Christ which are the ways of peace.

James 3:18 LEB

¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace among those who make peace.

Many have said that we are in the age of Grace because God is giving man time to accept Christ. But I would rather say, this is the age of conviction. This is the time when the Holy Spirit is at work.

300 Quotations for Preachers What the Church Needs Is Prayer

Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Luke 18:1 LEB

¹ And he told them a parable to *show that* they must always pray and not be discouraged,

Ephesians 6:18 LEB

¹⁸ with all prayer and supplication praying at all times in the Spirit, and to this *end* being alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints,

1 Thessalonians 5:17 LEB

¹⁷ pray constantly,