

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: All Things Reconciled
Text: Colossians 1:15-20
Speaker: Matt Ewert
Date: January 26, 2020



WARM-UP

Share one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend's worship service.

DISCUSSION

The vision of South Abbotsford Church is "To see all things reconciled to God through Jesus."

Read Colossians 1:9-23

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
- What does this passage teach us about reconciliation?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-20; Matthew 5:43-45; Galatians 3:26-28; Romans 8:18-23. In thinking about reconciliation:

- What truths do these passages teach us?
- What actions do these passages call us to?

"The mission of God in our fallen, broken world is reconciliation. Sacred Scripture witnesses that God's mission of reconciliation is holistic, including relationships with God, self, others, and creation."**

- Describe what you believe each of these spheres of reconciliation looks like? What does it look like to be reconciled to God, self, others, and creation?
- What are barriers to people experiencing reconciliation in each of these areas?
- Share a story of where you have either been involved in, or observed, reconciliation take place in one of these four spheres; God, self, others, creation.

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DISCUSSION

In the weekend services Katie, one of our career missionaries, shared that she is moving to the Himalayas in March. In the region, there is a practice called Chhaupadi, which is based on the belief that women are impure during their menstrual cycle and while giving birth. Because of their impurity, they must live separately from the rest of the community, usually staying in their families' cowsheds, believing that if they don't they will bring a curse on their families; that if anyone gets sick or if anything bad happens, it will be their fault. Approximately 72% of women in the rural areas follow this practice, and it not infrequently results in sexual abuse, sickness, and even death. Into this situation Katie is feeling called to bring her skills as a nurse, and the gospel of Jesus, to work for holistic reconciliation.

Take time to pray for Katie as she relocates next month, and that God would work through her to bring reconciliation to the people of that region.

***Quote taken from a 2005 paper written by 47 Christian leaders from around the globe entitled, "Reconciliation as the Mission of God".*