



The Purpose – Lesson 1

For This Reason: The Message of Reconciliation

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Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19, NKJV

1. The Reason for the Gospel of Reconciliation

- **We go to the nations for many reasons**, and like us, the Apostle Paul had a reason for going. In Ephesians 3:1 and 7, he tells us “for this reason” he became a minister of the message of reconciliation: the Jews and Gentiles are now ONE family. This is a picture of the reconciliation of the gospel!
- **The *message of reconciliation* should be the core reason why we go to the nations.** The Good News is still the most wonderful news ever, and as we go into cross-cultural ministry, we bring the message of the cross with us. While we train leaders with encouragement and resources, we are equipping them to more effectively go forth and bring the message of reconciliation to a lost and dying world.

2. The Results of the Gospel of Reconciliation

- **The end result is expressed in Ephesians 3:10:** *“to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.”* (NKJV)
- **The mystery of reconciliation of all people was in God’s heart from the beginning of the ages** and is only revealed in Christ. In Christ, we as multiethnic people come together, forgetting our skin color, our nationality, our gender, or our economic status, and become one, thus displaying the multi-faceted wisdom of our God TO the principalities and powers in heavenly places. We partner with Jesus in making *“a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them”* (Colossians 2:15, NKJV) when we walk in fellowship together!

- **The Gospel erases all barriers between people**, making us ambassadors of reconciliation.

Conclusion:

The Gospel at its essence is a message of reconciliation – sinners reconciled to God, different people groups reconciled to each other, and our purposes reconciled to the purposes of God. Our lives should be a reflection of this message, and as we bring the Gospel to those around us, the way in which we do it should be sowing seeds of peace. *But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.* James 3:17-18, ESV

Reflect:

- Do you see any barriers of separation and division at work in your heart, life, or culture?
- What is a way you can apply the Gospel to that situation?

What does reconciliation look like as a minister of the Gospel?