

## **1. Reconciled with God through Christ**

### **Romans 5:10**

*“For if, while we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son**, then how much more, having **been** reconciled, will we be saved by His life!”*

### **Col. 1:19-22**

*“For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to **reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross** — whether things on earth or things in heaven. Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds because of your evil actions. But now **He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before Him**—“*

## **2. Ministry of Reconciliation - indispensable privilege**

### **2 Cor. 5:18-20**

*“Everything is from God, **who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: That is, in Christ, **God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, “Be reconciled to God.”**”*

**3. Reconcile with others** - Matthew 5:24 - *“leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be **reconciled** with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*

**4. Reconcile in your home** - what do you feel encouraged to do to bring spiritual harmony? Write a letter - make a call - go to *that* person at church - reconcile between you and your spouse, you and your child, your parent, an estranged friend?

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**EXCLUDE** - what do we need to exclude from our spiritual life? Because if we do not, it can create in us a hard heart - what is a hard heart? It is a spiritual condition when a person refuses to listen to, associate with, obey the Lord, repent of sin - it can also happen when we have suffered set-backs or disappointments or heartaches in life.

*“Happy is the one who is always reverent, but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble”. Proverbs 28:14*

What needs to be excluded so our hearts won't become hardened?

### **Boasting - Romans 3:27**

*“Where then is boasting? **It is excluded.** By what kind of law? By one of works? No, on the contrary, by a law of faith.”*

Exclude from the home of our heart all pride - un-forgiveness - refusing to seek reconciliation - arrogance - selfishness - continual unrepentant sin - control - have to be right - materialism - being worldly minded

### **Psalm 139:23-24**

*“**Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.**”*

Repentance is how a hardened heart begins to soften - true repentance is a changed life because with true repentance, comes change.

The cure for a hard heart ———> truth - the truth will set you free!

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**When you think of a hard heart, what comes to mind? Write it below.**

## SURPASS

*“For I tell you, unless your righteousness **surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20*

Scribes and Pharisees had some goodness about them in that they were:

- devoted to prayer and fasting
- prompt in ceremonial appointments
- made it their business to teach others

But they also,

- were enemies to Christ and his teaching and were oppressors
- they were more concerned only with the outside (outside appearances and behaviors)
- << we are to *surpass* them by being concerned about the inside - the heart >>
- they wanted the praise and applause of man
- << we aim for the acceptance and intimacy with God >>

**When our righteousness surpasses those of the Pharisees, then we will experience and demonstrate:**

**1. Surpassing grace** - *“They will glorify God for your obedience to the confession of[a] the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with others through the proof provided by this service. And they will have deep affection for you in their prayers on your behalf because of **the surpassing grace of God in you**. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” 2 Cor. 9:13-15*

**2. Surpassing - love** - *“and to **know the Messiah’s love that surpasses knowledge**, so you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Eph. 3:19*

**3. Surpassing value of knowing Christ** - *“More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of **the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ” Phil. 3:8*

**4. Surpassing peace of God** - *“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And **the peace of God, which surpasses every thought**, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

*“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is any praise—dwell on these things.” Phil. 4:6-8*

**Where in your own life is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about surpassing? Write it below.**

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**Truth ————— > Fruit**

*“You have already heard about this hope in **the message of truth**, the gospel that has come to you. **It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world**, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and recognized God’s grace in the truth.” Col. 1:6*

*“By His own choice, **He gave us a new birth by the message of truth** so that we would be the **firstfruits** of His creatures.” James 1:18*

To bear FRUIT means — your life will *show* that you live in Christ, you live in Sabbath rest, you live in TRUTH. And it shows (gives fruit) in how you listen, speak, think, behave, make decisions, respond, how you spend your time, your money, your ways, etc.

**Get personal with Him** - that is a simple way of saying, explore His truth (His Word) for the areas of your life where you feel you need Him most - where you want His truth to set you free!

*\*\*\*Print these pages off and add them to your binder behind the SPIRITUAL tab.*

*\*\*\*Print off the positive confessions, too.*

