

The False Ministry of Reconciliation

Some Protestant varieties, including the religions called Berean, and the Grace Church movement, believe they are in the Body of Christ, and that the Apostle Paul gave the Body of Christ, aka Christ's Church, the ministry of reconciliation, and made them ambassadors for Christ with the requirement to evangelize the world. This is not true.

This errant idea comes from a misreading of II Corinthians by a preacher of the early 20th century named J.C. O'Hare. For over 100 years, these religions have thus-far failed to catch their mistake, passing their ignorance on to successive generations who perpetuate this misunderstanding.

These religions believe salvation comes only from hearing the word of God preached, and not hearing there is no salvation. This is a derivative of Evangelical thought, just using a different verse. They think every person must hear the (Jewish) Gospel and respond to a preacher's call to Christ unto repentance, and a preacher must be sent by proclamation of Christ and the Apostles as portrayed in the Holy Scriptures. These are the false imaginings behind the modern-day religion called Christian, and this religion's zeal for missions and evangelism. Their beliefs are incorrect and biblically unfounded.

These ideas are due to a misreading of Romans where Paul speaks specifically to the Jews who knew about Jesus, but denied Him. It has nothing to do with the Gentiles then, and certainly not the corrupt Christian religion of Rome or it's offshoot, Protestantism. Neither of these religions are found anywhere in the Bible.

The Berean / Grace religion further believes that the single mission of every Christian in their Church is to proclaim the Gospel message to the lost, evangelizing the world one person at a time until all hear. They say that the only reason the church and its people are here on earth is to minister, missionize, and evangelize. If the Church did not have this mission and mandate from God, to preach, evangelize, and save the lost souls of the world, there would be no purpose for the saved to remain on the earth, and God would call every Christian out of world to Heaven immediately. They proclaim, "Christian's have work to do!" This is false.

Never mind there is not one single word or notion anywhere in the Bible, cover to cover, that says or even hints at any such thing. Total fiction.

Therefore, Bereans and Grace people, along with Reformed / Covenant and Evangelical religions, say it is incumbent on every saved individual, because of their salvation, to evangelize, and evangelization is a duty, responsibility, requirement, an obligation of their salvation. Berean / Grace religions add that evangelizing must be their profession, career, calling, and this personal mission is expressly given to them by God through the Apostle Paul, and so, it is the singular purpose for their life and living on earth.

From the pulpit they will tell you that God will call every Christian to account for every missed opportunity they had to share the Gospel and did not, and Christians will lose rewards in Heaven for their sloth and weakness in not sharing. They believe that every Christian that shirks their responsibility and does not witness to others at every opportunity, sharing the verses of the Bible and the plan of salvation with every single person they meet; if they do not aggressively go forth boldly to seek and find the lost, they are

denying these people their chance - perhaps the one-and-only opportunity they will ever have - for an eternity in Heaven with God. Their failure to act is tantamount to them purposely and willfully condemning them to hell, deliberately drop-kicking these souls into the fiery abyss of eternal doom and torment.

How's that for a guilt trip?

WHAT A LOAD OF UTTER NONSENSE! NOT ONE WORD OF THE ABOVE IS IN THE BIBLE AND NOT ONE WORD IS TRUE!

Why do people today believe these things? In a word: religion.

Fun Fact: The Christian Church, from the first century post-Apostolic period through what we see in religion today, is nowhere found in the pages of the Bible. It is a made-up religion, including some names you might recognize: Catholicism, Evangelicalism, Amishism, Pentecostalism, Charismaticism, Lutheranism, Presbyterianism, and a host of others under the Protestant umbrella. Men created Mormonism in the same way.

Fun Fact: Nowhere in the entire Bible is the Body of Christ, the Gentiles, the Jews, or any group of people told by anyone to evangelize the lost. NOT ONE WORD. Religions just made it up.

This website has numerous articles that explain and describe in detail the state of our religious culture, providing the who, what, when, where, how, and why of all things church and religion. This article will simply touch on some of the high-points of our topic. Admittedly, these few words can hardly do justice to all that hangs in the background of what we call modern Christianity, and is meant more to wet your appetite to know the truth about your faith. Checkout the website for more detail. **PPGpilot.com**

For now, let's look at our topic beginning with the basics and work our way to the truth.

This article is an express version of the full study. For a much deeper, detailed look into this subject, see the full article on this site "*The Reconciliation Conundrum*"
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The Basics

There are many religions about God, but only one relationship with God.

This relationship with God stands alone, above all, in and of itself complete. Man's relationship with God is paramount, essential. This relationship is the single topic of the Bible. It is the reason for Christ.

Religion not required.

Every derivative of the Christian religion you can name - all of them - began with a false, disjointed, out-of-context concept of the Bible, or an errant understanding of a Bible verse. Snake Handling, the Holiness movement, Pentecostalism, Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Evangelicalism, Amishism,

Anglicanism, Full Gospel, Four Square, Methodism, Presbyterianism, Hutterites, Quakers, Anabaptists, and so many more under the umbrella of Protestantism and Covenant religion.

Fun Fact: Religion of every type is the single greatest satanic deception ever perpetrated upon the world, from idolatry, Confucianism, Islam, Christianity, and the rest.

The Body of Christ is not religion, it is a relationship with God, and the abiding Spirit of God.

From the beginning, these religions grew into a system of false theology, passing their errors onto successive generations, and this has been happening for centuries. Such is the case with the religions that built an entire industry on missions and evangelism out of a couple of misunderstood verses, promoting false doctrines that have lead their followers astray.

The idea that Paul gave each member of the Christian Church, in this case the Bereans and Grace Churches, the ministry of reconciliation, what they call the “**Greater Commission**”, has only been around 100 years. The false idea of the “**Great Commission**” held by the Evangelical Church, has been around a bit longer, but their concept of personal evangelism is a new invention of the mid-twentieth century.

Fun Fact: There is no such thing in all of the Bible as a “Great Commission” or a “Greater Commission”. These are phrases coined by the wayward religions that invented the term, decided to make it their religion, and chose to spend their lives promoting and following a misunderstanding. It is not a Biblical truth.

Fun Fact: The Christian religion is not a valid expression of biblical truth.

Consider In the four Jewish Gospels, during His three-year ministry, Jesus went to the Jew only, deliberately omitting the Gentiles and calling them “dogs”, His words. Neither Jesus nor His disciples ministered to, or interacted with the Gentiles, avoiding them entirely, and referring to both the Gentiles and Samaritans as heathens, and sinners.

Post-ascension, Jesus commissioned the Apostle Paul to minister to the Gentiles with a new message that Christ never spoke to His disciples; information the world had never heard, information that God chose for the Gentiles to receive from the mouth of the Apostle Paul, information that had nothing to do with the Jewish Old Testament or the four Jewish Gospels.

That the Christian religion of today believes that Jesus, 2000 years ago, spoke specifically to them, a misguided, biblically ignorant group of Gentiles, without God or the Spirit of God, despising the Jews, preaching a false gospel, a false Spirit, and a phony Jesus, ignoring Christ’s messenger to the Gentiles, the Apostle Paul - and they thinking Jesus commanded them into the mission field to convert the world to their brand of made-up religion is beyond absurd.

Paul's Ministry

The ascended Christ gave to the Apostle Paul God's message to mankind in the ministry of reconciliation to GO to the Gentiles, and the Word of Reconciliation to PREACH to the Gentiles. It was a ministry unique to Paul. Christ never gave this ministry to anyone else, and Paul never gave his ministry to the Body of Christ, and never told the body of Christ to evangelize anyone.

Note Studying the Bible, scripture always interprets scripture. For the Matthew 28 and II Corinthians 5 passages to say what these wayward religions believe they say, given the gravity of what these people think they mean, there would be numerous references throughout the New Testament repeatedly calling the Body of Christ to the ministry of reconciliation, anointing them ambassadors, and telling them to Go Ye and evangelize and missionize the world on threat of judgment from God. Instead - Zilch! There is not one mention of any such thing anywhere in the Bible, and certainly not in Matthew or II Corinthians. These verses have a completely different meaning and context when compared to the faulty interpretations these groups preach. What these groups believe is a tradition of what someone thought the Bible meant, embellished over the centuries. It is not biblical truth.

The verses these religions use to create their "Greater Commission" are found in II Corinthians 5:18-20. Anytime you take a verse from the Bible out of context, without background or meaning, then ascribe to it your own personal spin of what you think it means, the result is always false doctrine. This is the case with the "ministry of reconciliation". The Evangelicals do the same thing with their "Great Commission" found in Matthew 28:19. In both cases, these verses were removed from their textual flow, viewed in isolation and out of context, and do not mean what their promoters believe and preach. Protestantism is fraught with many of these errant ideas of the Bible including water baptism and tithing and the church model, just to name a few.

Fun Fact: The Christian religion, in all its various expressions, is nothing more that a bunch of random Bible verses taken out of context, and/or superstitions, fables, stories, and traditions that have no Biblical support.

In Context

Let's look at the Ministry of Reconciliation: the "Greater Commission", and find the truth. See the II Corinthian 5:18-20 verses below, removed from the Bible, without context, in a vacuum, as viewed by these religions:

II Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Segments of the Christian religion, reading these verses by themselves, isolated and out of the textual flow, believe the WE and the US refers to all of Christendom for all time. They do not. Neither do these verses apply to the Body of Christ. In Context, you will see that the verses refer only to the Apostle Paul and the ministry given to him by the ascended Christ.

NOTE Any mention in this article of “the Body of Christ” refers to those individuals who have a relationship with God and possess the Spirit of God. The mention does not mean those followers of Catholicism, or Covenant / Reformed Christianity who do not belong to God and have neither.

The Body of Christ is not a religion. It is a relationship with God, and the abiding Spirit of God.

Note that the religion called Christianity

- did not exist during the time of the Apostle Paul
- neither the Roman nor Protestant version of Christianity exist anywhere in the Bible
- today, these religions do not understand the Bible
- these religions do not have the Spirit of God
- these religions do not have God
- these religions do not have salvation

With this background and foundation, let’s look at the facts.

The II Corinthians Paul

Paul in the Plural

Paul, in his epistles, often refers to himself in the plural. Here is an example from Romans:

Romans 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

This is also the case throughout II Corinthians. WE = Paul and US = Paul. II Corinthians is almost exclusively written in this fashion. The target of Paul’s remarks - the counter balance, is the Corinthian Church: ye you your. Here is an example of Paul writing to the Corinthians in the plural:

II Corinthians 1

5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

6 And whether we be afflicted, [it is] for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, [it is] for your consolation and salvation.

7 ¶ And our hope of you [is] stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so [shall ye be] also of the consolation.

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:

This is Paul speaking to the Corinthians, not the entire world for all time, and not to a Christian religion that will misread this verse in 1923 - 19 centuries future. The WE, OUR, US refers to Paul, not the Body of Christ, and not the wayward Christian religion of the 2nd century, the Roman religion of the 4th century, not the reformation protestants 15 centuries future, and not the Christianity of today.

Let's do another one:

II Corinthians 3

1 ¶ Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some [others], epistles of commendation to you, or [letters] of commendation from you?

2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

3 [Forasmuch as ye are] manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Obviously, these verses refer to the Apostle Paul who speaks of himself in the plural as he addresses the Corinthians. The WE, OUR, US does not mean here, or anywhere else, the Christian religion of today. Yet, a small subset of Protestantism misunderstands these verses to mean them.

Paul's Ministry

For our short study, let's start where Paul begins to speak of his ministry. This is the theme that carries through to our target verses in question - they're connected, like book-ends, and sets the stage for what Paul will say / repeat in chapter 5. Paul here proclaims he received his ministry from God. Notice, this verse is almost identical to the chapter 5:18-20 verses we are discussing.

II Corinthians 4:1 ¶ Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

In context with the theme throughout II Corinthians, Paul is speaking of himself. Read it again, removing the plurality:

II Corinthians 4:1 ¶ Therefore seeing I have this ministry, as I have received mercy, I faint not;

Here Paul says he has this ministry, no one else. He, Paul, received mercy from Christ on the road to Damascus, no one else.

Now, reading our target verses with Paul in the singular gives us an entirely different understanding; an accurate understanding of the passage:

II Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled ME to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to ME the ministry of reconciliation;

:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto **ME** the word of reconciliation.

:20 Now then **I am an ambassador** for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by **ME: I** pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

In context, the intent of the verses become clear: Paul, through his ministry given to him by God, is beseeching the Corinthians to be reconciled to God. What is also clear is that nowhere is Paul giving the Corinthians a ministry of reconciliation or anointing them ambassadors, neither is he giving anyone else a ministry or anointing anyone else ambassadors here or anywhere in his epistles. Neither is he bestowing a forever and for all time command or ministry to some future religion called Christian, 19 centuries future. (**Paul believed the Church would be removed in his lifetime**). It is all Paul in the moment speaking to the Corinthians.

Even if the verses were directed to the Body of Christ (they are not), they most certainly are not directed to the errant Christian religion of the last 1700 years which did not exist at the time of the Apostles writing. In fact, Paul would call the numerous brands of the Christian religion of our day apostate, and anathema, seeing as they preach a false gospel and believe and promote a phony Jesus and a different Spirit. Paul warned the members of his churches to stay clear of anyone teaching such error.

If Paul were with us today, he would tell the Body of Christ to have nothing to do with the religion and the people called Christian. And he would certainly add an anathema or two.

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