



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Christ Alone November 25-27, 2017

(2 Corinthians 5:17–21) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1. How is "Solus Christus – Christ Alone" represented on our Reformation banner? Explain its importance to the other three "solas": Grace Alone, Faith Alone, and Scripture Alone.
2. With all the recent "scandals" in the news, we're reminded that our sinful past is a frightening thing. What comforting assurance does Paul give us in verse 17?
3. Give an example of how reconciliation typically works here on earth. (Think of the last disagreement you had with a parent, friend or spouse.) Why doesn't this kind of reconciliation work to fix our sin-broken relationship with God?

4. What is so unusual (and amazing) about the way sinners are reconciled to God?
5. According to verse 19, how many sinners have been reconciled to God? In "bookkeeping" terms, how does this reconciliation work? Base your answer on verse 21.
6. What is the role and work of an ambassador? What does this mean for our role as ambassadors of Christ?
7. We are saved as the result of a "Great Exchange" that has taken place. Luther summarizes this "exchange" in this way: "*Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, just as I am your sin. You have taken upon yourself what is mine and have given to me what is yours.*" In your own words, explain how and what Jesus has taken from you, as well as how and what Jesus has given to you. Look for an opportunity to share these truths with someone you know.
8. Study the verses of our text. Where do you see grace at work? How is faith referred to? Where is the importance of Scripture emphasized?