

## Thoughts on Reconciliation

April 12, 2024

The question that stands before us today is whether we want to require Elders from other factions of the Restoration to Renounce those factions and their practices, or to require them to reconcile themselves to our way of thinking. There are very few (only two that I could find) scriptural references to renounce anything, but they have quite a lot to say about reconciliation.

We continually declare our desire for unity and to become one. Then we insist that to become unified, to become one, everyone else must conform to us. In this we do err greatly. Lacking humility, we make ourselves the cornerstone of Christs Church instead of Christ Himself, thus putting ourselves before and above Christ. Brothers, the greatest barrier that stands between us and our brothers and sisters in Christ is the absence of humility and forgiveness.

I have heard it said many times that we cannot break down the walls that separate us. I have heard it said many times that when Christ comes, He will break the barriers down and will reveal all truth to us. And so, we must wait upon Christ to resolve our differences.

The Aaronic Priesthood have rightly asked the Elders to reference scriptures in the decisions we make. I would like to do that now and read excerpts from Ephesians 12.

### **Ephesians 12**

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; but it is the gift of God;

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

11 Wherefore remember, that ye were in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world;

13 But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

**14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;**

*Brothers, we don't have to wait on Christ to come and reveal all truth so we can break down the barriers between us and be unified as One in Him.*

*HE HAS ALREADY DONE IT!!!*

**15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;**

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby;

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

**18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**

19 Now therefore **ye are no more strangers** and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and **of the household of God;**

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself (Not Us, Not Our Church),** Jesus Christ himself being the **chief cornerstone;**

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord;

22 In whom **ye also are builded together** for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

### **Romans 5:10-11**

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son; much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

*Paul explains that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, reconciling us to God. This act of divine love and sacrifice demonstrates **God's desire for reconciliation and His willingness to extend grace to all who believe in Him.***

### **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

17 Therefore if any man live in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,

18 And receiveth all the things 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 is 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.

21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

*As the Elders of the Church, we must humble ourselves before the Lord if we are to be ambassadors for Christ. We must stop imputing the trespasses of others, as we perceive it, and begin exercising the ministry of reconciliation in earnest humility and the spirit of forgiveness. Only when we embrace this truth can we begin to teach it to the people. And only then will we find the peace of unity with one another in Christ.*