

# Reconciled with God and with Each other

by Alan Martin

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*This sermon emphasizes the importance of unity, love, and reconciliation among believers, focusing on stripping away harmful attitudes and clothing oneself with compassion, kindness, and humility. The message highlights the need to be perfectly one in Christ, putting off divisive behaviors and embracing a spirit of forgiveness and unity. The goal is to create a church family where all are valued, respected, and unified in love, reflecting the image of Christ and promoting peace and wholeness.*

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 5:14, Colossians 1:19, Hebrews 3:12, John 17:21, Colossians 3:12

**Topics:** "Unity in Christ", "Compassion and Forgiveness"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of unity, love, and reconciliation among believers, focusing on stripping away harmful attitudes and clothing oneself with compassion, kindness, and humility. The message highlights the need to be perfectly one in Christ, putting off divisive behaviors and embracing a spirit of forgiveness and unity. The goal is to create a church family where all are valued, respected, and unified in love, reflecting the image of Christ and promoting peace and wholeness.

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## Transcript

If you'll turn with me to 2nd Corinthians 2nd Corinthians chapter 5 I'm going to start reading in verse 12 2nd Corinthians Chapter 5 verse 12 But we do not commend ourselves Again to you, but give you an opportunity to boast on our behalf That you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in heart But we are if we're beside ourselves it is for God and if we are of our sound mind it is for you And follow with me here very closely for the love of Christ is what holds us together is what compels us or what constrains us literally it More literally should be holds us together the love of Christ holds us together Because we had judged this And here's why I would encourage all of us to come to this judgment Because once you come to this judgment, you will not look at other people the same ever again Follow what Paul said for we have come to this judgment that one died for all Therefore all died that's the judgment Christ Jesus died for all Every person you or I encounter Christ Jesus died for them and that needs to be the controlling judgment in our response in our relationship with them and he died for all it says that those who Live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again Ah Therefore it says from now on this is verse 16 Now that we have come to the judgment that one died for all and all died Therefore from now on we no longer know anyone According to the flesh our old way of relating to people is no more We don't look at them just with our natural eyes and our natural propensity and our natural thought That's the past Now that we've come to the judgment that Christ died for all we no longer know

anyone according to our natural selves but according to the spirit or if any man is in Christ that man is a New creation whether they spent however many years in jail Whether they're covered with tattoos from top to bottom whether they had whether they have more piercings and you and I can imagine Whatever however many times they might have been married whatever they were in their past If they are in Christ Jesus, we do not know them according to the flesh We know them according to the spirit and if any man is in Christ Jesus He is a new creation and what do all things do if you're in Christ? All things pass away and all things become new and now all things are of God who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ and Given us the ministry of reconciliation What is this word reconcile to reconcile means to be brought to the same place to be brought into agreement to be restored to a relationship of unity and Harmony and what God has done Through sending his son as he is he's reconciling the world to himself And look what it says how he does this in verse 19 That is God was in Christ Reconciling the world to himself not reckoning their sins to them That's the word impute or reckon or take into account. So how is God? reconcile men to himself by not Taking their sins into account By not counting it against them by not making it a record and You know what? This is how God reconciled the world to himself and you know what he's done. He's given that ministry of reconciliation to you and I That's the ministry he's given us and how did he go about reconciling the world to himself he was not Counting their trespasses against them He's not considering them.

It's not imputing their trespasses. That means he came to say Sinners It's not the healthy that need the doctor. Jesus said I didn't come to call the righteous.

I've come to call sinners to repentance to reconcile those who are not right with God To be with God as a matter of fact all of us whether we realize it or not at one time We're enemies of God Turn with me to Colossians the first chapter Colossians is right after Ephesians of flip of Philippians Colossians Paul's letter to the church of Colossae chapter 1 Then I'll read in verse 19 Colossians 1:19 I'll start there for it pleased the Father that in him and that is in Jesus all the fullness of the Father should dwell and By him to reconcile all things to himself by him whether things on earth or things in heaven Having made peace through the blood of his cross and you who were once alienated from God Alienated is the opposite of reconciled when you're alienated from someone you're not in a relationship All of us at one time were alienated from God And we're enemies in our minds because of our wicked works What does that say? All of us at one time had this view of God that he is taking things from us. He's arbitrary He wants to keep us from having fun He says know the things that we enjoy and we don't want to give them up because in our mind Doing these things that we thought were so good and so pleasurable Made us hostile in our mind to God Thinking he's the big killjoy the one to take away our liberty and we don't want to become one of those holy rollers Who never have any fun in your mind? You did not have the correct view of God that he's pure goodness pure kindness Pure love and would never desire a single thing for any of us except what is Absolutely best for us in every way and if God said do not do something It's because he knew that thing would take more from you than it would ever do for you But we didn't have that mindset. We needed to be Reconciled to God and Jesus comes to to do this work in us to Reconcile us to God to change the way we think do we realize our father is? Good, our father is perfect.

Love and our father Created these bodies of ours Our father created this world and our father knows How these bodies work He knows the things that are good for us and he knows the things that are bad for us he knows that they certain things need to be handled very carefully in moderation and Certain things shouldn't be handled at all because they're toxic and they have an effect on you. That is not good When we understand that this is the heart of our father Then we enjoy his instruction and We receive his

guidance and we look for it and count it as a treasure We want his help. We enjoy his light We seek him for understanding and we seek to grow and know how good he is Because we no longer trust Ourselves as a matter of fact, this can happen even as Christians if you want to turn with me to Hebrews chapter 3 Look what can happen? Because when you begin to experience Reconciliation when you begin to see God for who who he really is how good he is How wonderful he is and how much he wants your life to be abundant He wants your joy to be full.

He wants you to be to live in his peace When you begin to see and understand this Your life begins to experience his blessing But if you're not careful sin and the environment we're in can begin to mess with your heart and Corrupt the way you see God. That's why the in the book of Hebrews the writer says this in Hebrews chapter 3 verse 12 Watch out or be on the lookout Brothers lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief That means it could happen. I mean some of us here Could suddenly begin to think not God's too hard.

God's a killjoy I've tried to serve him. I've tried to pray. I've tried to follow those things and it just doesn't work for me I don't get anything out of the Bible It's just But I'm done See what's happened is something is affected your heart because the Bible says without faith.

It's impossible to please God Those who come to him must believe that he is and he is a rewarder of Those who diligently seek him you seek God because he's good You seek God because every good and perfect gift comes from him Seeking God and knowing God is where fullness of joy is We're perfect. Peace that guards our hearts and minds is Those who know him Correctly and have a heart of faith and trust come to him and are drawn to him But when the heart has been affected by the evil of unbelief The way the Lord is hard if you we become like that servant who was only given the one talent remember him Remember his attitude toward the master when he came back and he he said here master Here's the one talent you gave me because I knew you to be a hard man And that you reap where you didn't sow and you harvest where you where you hadn't scattered and the master called him a wicked and Lazy servant. He said I'll judge you by your own words.

Oh, so you you knew me to be hard Well, then why didn't you take my money to the bank? So I could at least have it back with interest Take that take the talent from him and give it to the one who has ten and throw that worthless servant out Well, if you knew me to be hard, I will be hard. I Don't know if it's in the Psalms, but it says God to the pure. God is pure to the faithful.

God is faithful To the righteous God shows himself righteous, but to those who are perverse those who are crooked God shows himself unpredictable Unreliable Because that's just that's what they think he is and that's how that he just lets them have it their way And this is where you and I need to be careful That we do not allow that type of unbelieving evil heart to work in us and he goes on the next verse he says but exhort one another daily encourage one another exhort is almost a word like a like a the sergeant would Speak to his troops Encouraging them to be strong to hold their position to remember their training to not give way Maintain their order in the face of attack We are to exhort one another daily So that none of us would be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin What is the deceitfulness of sin? All sin is pleasurable For a season and And The sin that was introduced in the garden remember how the serpent Deceived the woman into partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge a good needle that the Lord has said you're not to Touch or take He tried to make it like God is holding out on you God didn't want you to experience the goodness of this and That's what this this deceitfulness of sin does to the heart Somehow we begin to think we're missing out on something that these things that God is trying to save us from Really are

enjoyable and that these things will somehow enrich our lives we and our Relationship with one another is to make sure that that is not happening to any of our hearts because it can't and It does happen and most of us here know Someone in our lives or in our family that no longer no longer attends no longer gathers when Saints gather No longer attends church. No longer serves the Lord no longer seeks the Lord Oh, they may think God exists, but he might as well be a million miles from them because they have no relationship with him that's a heart that has been affected been hardened by the deceitfulness of sin and has become an Evil heart of unbelief because when you no longer see God as good and you're drawn to his goodness You know what you do you do with the scriptures and you stand away you begin to stand away and you stop drawing near because the Bible says draw near to God and he will Draw near to you. But if you stand away and you walk away from God, what do we want God to do? We want him to tackle us Is that what we want just to come up from behind and just grab it by the legs and take us down and Just grab us by the scruff of the neck and just drag his back to himself.

Is that what we want? No, God's a gentleman and God sends the invitation come Come unto me all you that are weary and heavy laden I'll give you rest, but God's not gonna force you to serve him or force you to follow him He will prepare a banquet and he will send out invitations, but he won't drag you there and force you to eat He will send servants. He will appeal but he'll give you that opportunity to make your decision and As believers were to help one another make sure we don't develop this Sinful unbelieving heart that's been hardened by the deceitfulness of sin Because what what we're seeking to do is to be fully reconciled to God Now not only to be fully reconciled to God We're to seek this beautiful reconciliation with each other You remember what Jesus prayed? That John recorded in John 17 Jesus prayed something for his disciples and for those like us who would come to believe later Through the disciples. Do you remember what he prayed? One thing particularly was on his mind Who could tell me what he prayed there in John 17 for all of those who had come to believe in him through the Apostles That they may be one and here's what he said Rudy not just that they may be one that they may be one as you And I are one Oh Jesus and the father were perfectly one Jesus knew the father could never sin Jesus knew the father never had a bad thought Jesus knew that the father's commands are eternal life.

That's why Jesus said I only do what the father shows me to do I only say what the father tells me to say and the world must learn that I love the father and I always do what He says we are perfectly one and that's the oneness that he desires us to experience with him being reconciled to him and He wants us to experience this same oneness with each other He said that they may be made perfect in one He says that the world may believe that you sent me now Here's what the world knows or here's what the world expects When the world looks inside a church, you know what they expect to find Attitudes Clicks Little opinions Little little groups here there all because that's in everywhere in the world They're not perfectly one They're not a family that just perfectly loves one another pure and free from any prejudice pure and free from any opinions Pure and free from any I'll just tolerate you but I really don't care for you to see a place where the oneness of the Holy Spirit and the unity of the Holy Spirit has been brought about by the power of God is Miraculous It's the clearest evidence That God is in a place That people as different as we are are perfectly one nothing against each other Everyone with the same respect same value same esteem same appreciation same care for same love a Oneness that is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives And to this end if you have your Bible, I want you to see that Paul is seeking this in Colossians and Guys, so you'll know it's okay for babies to be in church So anyone who's thinking they should take that baby to the name to the nursery just stop It's okay with me. I Love the sound of a baby All right, we can handle that, right? All right. Good.

I'm good Let's let that mom enjoy hearing what the Word of the Lord says. All right Plus just chapter 3 Let's just start from the beginning there If then you were raised with Christ seek those things which are above where Christ is seating at the right hand of God Set your mind on things above and not on things of the earth For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God When Christ is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory therefore put to death your members are upon the earth members are those things that tie us to and Especially these are things that tie us to that lower nature and that sinful nature that tie us to the base things of the earth put to death fornication uncleanness passion evil desire and covetousness Which is idolatry because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience Disobedience there is the wrath of God is coming upon those who have not been persuaded in God's goodness And they continue to walk in those things that are destroying the society and ruining lives They're continuing to walk in those things and God is eventually going to destroy those things to preserve his creation But are those people who are convinced that no those things are good while they're actually destroying society the wrath of God is coming there So we can you don't have any part of that Put the death your members are upon the earth then he goes on in which you yourselves once walked When you lived among them many of us walked in those things in the past Now verse 8 and please listen very carefully, but now you yourselves Put off these Listen to these. All right, I and I mean this as a pastor if you're hearing my voice I want every single one of us to put off every one of these things Put them off the word put off me strip it off Rip it away from you and throw it away Okay, you with me.

We're gonna do that together. All right, remembering what God's after Rip away from you anger wrath malice Blasphemy that's hurting others with your speech filthy language out of your mouth Do not lie to one another put off the old man with his practices Why is he saying that here's why That list just look at that list with me again anger wrath malice speaking against others with your words Inappropriate language Do not do not lie to one another You need to put off the old man with his practices that list anger Wrath malice blasphemy filthy language. You know what they basically saying Strip away from you anything that could harm anyone else Anything that could harm anyone else get it off of you Your anger just hurts people your malice just hurts people your opinion about Republicans just hurt people your opinions about Democrats just hurt hurts people your opinions about race just hurt people Your opinion about police officers just hurts people your opinion that come from your passions, is not safe for God's people.

Strip off everything from your life that could possibly hurt someone else, so that God's people in God's house can be perfectly one. Because you know what these things do? Opinions, they form schisms. They divide people.

Republicans are not Democrats. Liberals are not conservatives. Calvinists are not Arminians.

Strip away from yourself anything that is harmful to others. Because God wants his family to be perfectly one. No divisions.

No opinions about each other that are not Christ-like. Look what he goes on to say. Not only are you to strip off everything harmful.

Look at the next verse. Verse 10, Colossians 3.10. And put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of him who created him. Now, who was the Son of Man? Jesus Christ is the Son of Man.

So that's what God designed man to look like. What does God want you to look like? He wants you to look like the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. Put on that image.

Everything that is harmful to someone else, strip it off of you, and put on the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. And look what it says in verse 11. Isn't it fascinating? Once you do that, if you strip away everything that is harmful to someone else, and you clothe yourselves with the image of his Son, then there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

No distinctions. In the same church, there's not Greeks or Jews, just Christ. In the same church, there's not Republicans or Democrats, just Christ.

In the same church, not Calvinists or Armenians, just Christ. In the same church, not liberals or conservatives, just Christ. Not black or white, Christ.

Not Mexican or Negro, Christ. Christ is all and in all. No distinctions.

That's what the world is supposed to see when they step inside these doors. Jesus gave a new commandment to his disciples. A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you, and by this the world will know you're my disciples.

And Paul didn't even stop there. He's going to continue. Verse 12.

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has any complaint against anyone. So not only are you to put off everything that is potentially harmful to someone else, you are to make sure you clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, long-suffering. You bear with one another.

These words should never be uttered by a child of God towards a child of God. I can't stand that person. We should never say that person or think that person makes me sick.

Never. And even every one of us who has, because it says forgiving whatever complaint, in the Greek it's any legitimate grievance. I give it to you.

Some of you out there, you may be holding on to something that someone actually did or said to you, and you've got a legitimate grievance. I'm talking to you. Let it go.

I don't care how legitimate it is. Paul said for the church of God, get rid of it. Let it go.

You forgive. Let it go. Whatever it is, you forgive them like Christ forgave you.

How many of us remember the end of the Lord's Prayer? The end of it. What do we think the end is? Tell me what you think the end is. Ah, that's what most people think.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. But it's not. The end of the Lord's Prayer is, and if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither shall your Father in heaven forgive yours.

That's the end of the Lord's Prayer. Because he knew there was not a single chance for perfect oneness in the church if his people were allowed to hold faults with one another. There's no place for it here.

There's no place for a single one of us to hold fault towards anyone else regardless of what they've done or how many times they've done it. But what if they've done it 70 times 7? Well, then we forgive them 70

times 7. I tell you what. For those of you, maybe I'll give you an out.

Let's say those of you say, No, I just can't do that. I cannot forgive this person. Okay, that's fine.

As long as you understand that the Lord will not forgive you and you won't go to heaven. If you don't really want to go to heaven, you can hold on to your grievance. Take it to the grave with you.

Now, I just wouldn't recommend doing that. Because that does not produce the oneness in the body of Christ. You know, I don't think people consider it serious.

I really don't know how to explain what has happened to me. But I just, I come up here and I realize something. These are not even my ideas.

A long time, most of us have had this Bible a long time, right? I'm not even telling you any. Most of you, there's maybe a few new ones. I'm not telling you something you haven't heard.

But how is it that we could be in the Lord this long and not walk in these things? How is it possible for there to be churches where there is divisions and cliques and groups and lack of respect and people who would say things behind people's backs? You know, in this church, there should be no fear of that because it just wouldn't happen. God forbid that any one of us will say anything about any other of us behind our backs or to our face. And if that's going on, I pray in the Lord's kindness that He bring it out in the open so that we can get healed of it.

Because that's like cancer to the body of Christ. And opinions like that, and attitudes that form, condescending. And you know, I'm going to be honest.

It is among us. Usually, you only hear it if the person that holds the attitude kind of thinks that you probably will agree with them. Right? Birds of a feather, locked together, right? So, you know, you're not going to come up to someone's best friend and tell them what you're going to say to someone who kind of struggles with them like you, right? No, no.

You'll comfort one another over here about brother so-and-so. Or you'll comfort yourselves over here about sister so-and-so. And I'm just telling you, no.

No. No more, not ever. And I'm asking all of you to not give your ear to any such conversation.

Lovingly, patiently, kindly say, that's not Christ. That's not loving like Christ loved us. You are not loving if you just sit and listen.

And this goes for husbands and wives at your table. Husbands, brother Joe, all you husbands, don't listen to that kind of conversation with your wife and wives. Don't listen to that kind of conversation with your husband.

It's not appropriate anywhere, anytime. Private is not off limits. When is any of your conversation private to the Holy Spirit? Didn't Jesus say that men are going to give an account on the day of judgment for every word spoken? For by your words you will be acquitted and by your words you will be condemned.

So I am doing you a favor as your pastor. I am saying if you repent now of ever using your mouth as a critical means to criticize or share your opinion about someone else, that if you repent and ask God to forgive you, He will cleanse that from you. And you won't have to answer.

He'll forget it like it never happened. And then we can start with a clean slate. And we can do what Paul said.

We can let no unwholesome talk come out of our mouth. Only what's good for building others up according to their needs and that gives grace to those who listen. And that we can create in here a family, a oneness, a unity that is safe for God to send people who need help.

Because when they come in covered with their tattoos or they're piercing or smelling like they haven't had a bath in a week because they don't have running water and they're living under a bridge somewhere and they speak like a barbarian. You know the Greek word barbarian, do you know what it was the term meant for? The barbarian? In Christ there's no barbarians. The barbarians were those who didn't speak Greek.

They didn't speak the Greek language or appreciate the Greek culture. You know there's people who don't know church culture out there. They may come in flip-flops or cut-offs.

And they don't need you looking your nose down at them because they're barbaric. That person is barbaric. They can learn.

But they should learn from loving kindness and patience. They shouldn't feel that in our mind, we as this refined Christian culture, looking down upon them because they just haven't been exposed to what we have. I believe that God is just as wise and loving as most of you mothers were.

What do I mean by that? When most of you mothers, especially your first baby, maybe it gets a little bit less as you have five, six, or seven, or eight, but when you're first baby, you're very careful to get that nursery ready, aren't you? And you want to make sure that there's not anything there that can harm that child. Right? What do you think God our Heavenly Father is that wise? Do we want Him to add to our midst the sick, the needy, the barbaric, the non-Christian cultured people, those who need salvation the most. Do we want Him to add them? You think He's smart enough to know I'm not bringing anybody here that's just going to run into a carnal opinion instead of my love.

Right? A few places, and it was even rare in the New Testament, when all the believers were together, and all the believers were of the same mind, one in spirit and purpose. Remember what happened? Powerful spiritual manifestations happened. Buildings were shaken.

Entire congregations were filled with the Holy Spirit. Supernatural manifestations of God took place. Because the believers were one.

They were in perfect agreement. The word for that perfect agreement in the New Testament is *sum phoneo*. *Sum phoneo*.

*Sum* is with, and *phoneo* is sound. The sound means to sound the same. Most of us have an appreciation for good music.

We don't often expect to find it in the 6th grade band, do we? They have fun playing, and sometimes if the director is really good, because they're just learning, they're just beginning, he can get them to actually follow the music. But if you'll notice something, and I love music, and I was in the band all through middle school and high school, so I'm not picking on the band members. This was probably my experience too.

One of the things that's more difficult for someone who's just beginning to play an instrument is to play the instrument and be in tune. You kind of have to develop an ear for it. And you know what happens when you're playing along but there's that one person that's just out of tune.

It's like, that's the only thing you hear. It's kind of like the guy drawing on, scraping your fingers and nails across the chalkboard, you know? It's kind of difficult. Listen, please don't be that in the church.

Don't be the person who's so out of tune with Christ that you're what stands out, and what someone hears when they come in here. They pick up your attitude. They pick up on some kind of pride, or they pick up on some kind of opinion that you have.

And it just, it ruins the unity for them. This is something that we as a people are to be, and I feel very compelled as your pastor to guide us in this way. First of all, holding myself accountable.

Because I want to commit to you. I'm not going to entertain a thought towards you that does not come from the heart of my Heavenly Father for you. Can I say that again? I'm not going to entertain a thought towards you that did not come from my Heavenly Father's heart for you.

So whatever you're doing, whatever your needs are, wherever you're at, I want my Father's heart to be in control of every thought I have towards you. And that's the goal for us. I want to set that example.

I want to walk in that for you. And I want a commitment from my brothers and sisters, especially those of us who are older in the Lord. For those of us who are older in the Lord, it's already past time that we have walked this way.

Right? Past time. We should be those who... We can put that band director, if he's smart, he can take a young, inexperienced musician, and if he wants them to be in tune, what can he do? He can place them beside someone who's good. And that someone who's good can not only hear what the tune is, they can tell when the other person's out of tune a little bit and help them adjust.

Here, bud, you're a little flat. Or that's a little sharp. Let's just adjust a little bit.

Seeking everything to be in tune. And I'd like us to assemble, whether we're in Sunday school, whether we're visiting outside, whether we are here worshipping together, that we walk in that kind of commitment towards each other. Perfect unity.

Perfect respect. Perfect appreciation. Perfect esteem.

That's just... So that the Lord can have the testimony. Because remember when Jesus prayed, that they may be made perfect in one, that the world will believe that you sent me. Because the world needs the evidence.

They need to see it. And where do they need to see it? Look, we're different enough, aren't we? Aren't we? We're different enough. And if God can make us a beautiful family, having the same love, doing nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, in lowliness of mind, considering others to be even better than yourself, if God can make that a reality here, then the world can see God's work.

And then, you know what will happen? You know what happens as that process, is you become peacemakers. The Greek word for peace, Irenae. In Hebrew, it's Shalom.

In Greek, it's Irenae. It has the idea of wholeness. Wholeness.

You know what a real peacemaker is? A peacemaker is someone who causes everyone around them to fit into a beautiful hole. He's not divisive. He doesn't make opinions.

He doesn't cause schisms. He doesn't get his little click around them. He's for everyone.

And he works for everyone. And he's there for everyone. Because he wants the hole to be clean.

And the hole to experience God's goodness. He's non-divisive. A peacemaker is just the opposite of the person that... It actually says in Proverbs chapter 6, as it lists these things that God hates, the last thing in the list that God hates is one who sows discord among brothers.

Wow. So God so desires for us to experience oneness and unity. Having the same love.

Being one in spirit and purpose. Having the same mind. Seeing every one of us, seeing every other one of us as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

All of us with the same goal. All things passing away. All things becoming new.

Stripping away from us everything that is potentially harm. All human anger, passion, strife, malice, deceit, covetousness. Stripping all of that off.

Clothing ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. Putting on compassion, kindness, tenderness, humility. So that we become peacemakers.

We enable people to be together, to dwell together. In peace, oneness, this beautiful family. And experience good blessing of God.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God. The sons of God. So, just let me finish with this again.

And I'm going to give you an opportunity to respond today. I'm going to sing a song first. But then during the song I'm going to ask for a commitment from you.

And you don't need to come forward. But here's what I'm going to ask you to commit to. I'm going to ask you to commit your life to Jesus Christ again.

I know many of you have been followers of Christ. But I'm asking for a commitment. That you will commit to strip away from you everything that could be harmful to another person.

Strip it off. And I'm asking you to commit yourself to clothing yourselves with everything that would be so life-giving, so edifying, so unifying, so beneficial to others. I'm asking for that commitment in your heart.

That you be like Jesus. You love others like Jesus loved you. Alright? I'm going to sing this song first.

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