

Authentic Christianity Part 8

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 5:13-6:2.

B. One of the most visible marks of someone who has come to live in the New Covenant is a refusal to quit based upon fear and love.

II. Elements of the ministry of reconciliation.

A. It is equipping.

1. The basic pattern is the same—equipping and loving the saints.

2. You can meet together to plan, not in order to devise strategy, but to apply it.

B. It is something that is personal to us.

1. We are all called to share what we have personally experienced.

2. Some may be given the gift of evangelism, but all are to share.

C. It is universally inclusive.

1. Culture sometimes needs to be adapted.

2. Culture sometimes needs to be changed.

D. It is not counting their trespasses against them—this is the message and it is without condemnation.

E. It is delivered by men.

F. It is owned and accrediting by God.

G. It beseeches and not commands—it is voluntarily accepted. (Romans 12:1-2)

H. It achieves what is otherwise impossible—that we might become the righteousness or worth of God.

I. It is achieved moment by moment. One must take one moment at a time.

Application questions:

1. Which characteristic of the ministry of reconciliation do you find most outstanding? Why?

2. How is our personal life involved in the ministry of reconciliation?

3. What are you doing to help restore others to God? What principle challenges you the most in this regard?
