



Sorry, but there's nothing you can do!
Relationship: When you can't fix what's been broken.

Key Truth: There is nothing that we can do to reconcile this relationship on our own.

In previous chapels we talked about two important truths that pertain to every one of us:

- 1) You and I were created for a relationship with God.
- 2) Our sin separated us from that relationship.

Today, we want to try to answer the question how this broken relationship with God can be fixed.

Many people believe good deeds will make them right with God. Unfortunately, there is no definitive marker for “adequate goodness.” The Bible doesn’t say, “If you are good most of the time, you are acceptable to God,” or “three good deeds will offset one bad deed.” Without a definitive standard for goodness, how good is good enough?

The Bible helps us see that our problem is not a lack of goodness; our problem is the effect of sin. We could never reconcile the relationship with God because sin brings death and deception. Ephesians 2:1-3 teaches that without Christ, we were dead in trespasses and sins. In the past you were spiritually dead because of your disobedience and sins:

At that time you followed the world's evil way; you obeyed the ruler of the spiritual powers in space, the spirit who now controls the people who disobey God. Actually all of us were like them and lived according to our natural desires, doing whatever suited the wishes of our own bodies and minds. In our natural condition we, like everyone else, were destined to suffer God's anger.

Second Corinthians 4:3-4 reveals that without God’s intervention we have are blinded to the truth by the god of this world:

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

*We can do nothing to reconcile with God because...
dead people don't act
and **deceived people don't believe***

Make it personal:

- * Nobody likes to be deceived, yet the Bible tells us that we all have been “dooped“ into believing that, at the core, we are all good. What is *your* response to this truth?
- * From what you have seen today, is there anything you and I can do to “fix“ our broken relationship with God?
- * What have you come to believe about “good being good enough“?



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