



 **NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER**
March 15, 2026

FOR RECONCILIATION
Pastor Brian Benton | Turlock
Pastor Jeremy Moore | Patterson

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 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. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV)

Reconciliation vs. Restoration

Reconciliation ends the separation and restoration repairs the damage.

1. God took the FIRST STEP, towards reconciliation.

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)

*"That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them."
2. Corinthians 5:19a (NIV)*

2. Reconciliation CLOSES THE GAP between us and God.

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear. Isaiah 59:1-2 (NIV)

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son, and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:19-20 (NET)

3. Reconciliation requires a RESPONSE.

We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20b (NIV)



His HEART BEATS

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

March 15, 2026

CONNECT

When you hear the word reconciliation, what comes to your mind? A word, a picture, a situation? Do you think reconciliation comes naturally for most people or is it something that requires intentionality?

ENGAGE

What part of this weekend's message challenged or encouraged you the most?

GROW

- According to 2 Corinthians 5:18–20, who initiated reconciliation, us or God? Why does that matter? What does it reveal about His character?
- Romans 5 says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. How does knowing that God moved toward us at our worst change the way you/we see Him?
- What's the difference between reconciliation and restoration?
- Paul says we've been given the "ministry of reconciliation."
What do you think that looks like practically in everyday life....at home, work, church?
- Is there a difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
When might reconciliation require humility, risk, or a difficult conversation?

LEAD YOURSELF:

This week, ask the Holy Spirit one simple question:

"Is there a relationship in my life where I need to take a step toward reconciliation?" Not necessarily fixing everything. Not forcing restoration. But taking one step.