

From Hostile to Holy

Colossians 1:21-23

I once was – God’s _____ (v. 21)

“And you, who once were **alienated** and **hostile** in mind, doing **evil deeds**...”

Alienated means cut off from God’s _____ and _____. (Eph. 2:3; 2:12).

Hostile in mind means _____ to God’s rule. (Romans 8:7)

Doing evil deeds means that your hostility was not just in the heart. It showed in your _____. (Matthew 15:19)

This is total. Your condition, your thinking, and your actions all ran in the same direction – against God.

But now I am – _____ with God (v. 22a)

“He has now **reconciled** in His body of flesh by His death...”

Paul is not talking about your efforts. He is talking about God’s action.

In His body of flesh means real _____. (John 1:14)

By His death means a real _____. (Romans 5:10)

Reconciliation is the work of God, in Christ, through the cross.

You did not make peace with God. God made peace with you.

So that I may be – _____ for His presence (v. 22b)

“...in order to **present you holy** and blameless and above reproach **before Him**...”

This is the purpose of reconciliation. Reconciliation is not the _____ – it is the _____ to an end.

This is biblical **sanctification**.

Definitive sanctification ...

Progressive sanctification ...

Holy means set apart as _____ to God. (1 Peter 2:9)

Blameless means no _____ in Christ. (Romans 8:33–34)

Above reproach means that no charge can stand. (Jude 24)

The final verdict is “qualified,” not “unqualified.”

This is already true of you in Christ, and it is being worked out in you over time.

If I continue – _____ (v. 23)

“If indeed you continue in the faith, **stable** and **steadfast**, **not shifting** from the hope of the gospel...”

This verse is not about God’s _____ toward you; it is about the _____ in you.

This is not the only warning passage in Scripture

Prospective passages

Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:26-27, 1 Corinthians 15:2

Retrospective passages

1 John 2:19, 2 Timothy 2:19, Matthew 7:23

The prospective passages press the question, “Will you hold fast?”

The retrospective passages answer the question, “Who really belonged?”

Conclusion: The Hope of the Gospel

The gospel is not advice about what you must do.

It is the announcement of what Christ has done.