

Reconciliation with God (11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

Romans 5:6-11—Reconciliation with God

1. Love: God shows his “love” (Greek *agape*) for us (5:8)
2. Sinners: while we were still “sinners” Christ “died for us” (5:8)
3. Blood: we were “justified” by his “blood” (5:9)
4. Reconciliation: we were “reconciled” (*katallasō*) to God, that is “to exchange enmity for a healthy friendship” (5:10)

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the *ministry of reconciliation*; ¹⁹ that is, *in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them*, and entrusting to us the *message of reconciliation*. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, *be reconciled to God*. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:18-21)

The Living Tradition

Catechism: “The whole power of the sacrament of Penance consists in restoring us to God’s grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship.” *Reconciliation with God is thus the purpose and effect of this sacrament*. For those who receive the sacrament of Penance with contrite heart and religious disposition, *reconciliation “is usually followed by peace and serenity of conscience with strong spiritual consolation.”* Indeed the sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true “spiritual resurrection,” restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is *friendship with God*” (CCC 1468)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

1. What light do the words of Paul in Romans 5 shed on Confession as the “Sacrament of Reconciliation”?

For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *Romans* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1998).
3. Brant Pitre, “The Roman Catholic Perspective on Paul.” Pages 25-55 in *Perspectives on Paul: Five Views*. Edited by Scot McKnight and B. J. Oropeza. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.