

“Ministry of Reconciliation”

Judges 10:1-5

February 9, 2020

I. Tola’s Identity

- A. Not much is known; he essentially appears out of nowhere.
- B. We do know that he saved (Judges 10:1) Israel. But from whom?

II. Tola’s Ministry of Reconciliation

- A. During Tola’s tenure, the people were reconciled to one another.
- B. During Tola’s tenure, the people were reconciled to God.

III. Tola and Christ

- A. Tola’s ministry of reconciliation (imperfectly but truly) anticipated Christ’s.
- B. Jesus has reconciled believers to God.

Romans 5:10–11 - ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- C. Jesus has reconciled believers to each other.

Ephesians 2:14–16 - ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

Colossians 3:11 - Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

IV. Applications

- A. The work of Christian leaders is to make known and flesh out Christ’s work of reconciling believers to the Lord and to one another.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 - ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

1. God’s people are to be called to put their faith in the Lord and to practice ongoing repentance.
2. God’s people are to be called to live out the reconciliation with each other that is already theirs in Christ.

Colossians 3:11–13 - ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- B. Every single Christian has an analogous, two-fold task:

1. To be ready to introduce others to the hope of the gospel so they might be reconciled to God (1 Peter 3:15).
2. To pursue peace with and among all of God’s people.

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

James 3:18 - And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

“Ministry of Reconciliation”

Judges 10:1-5

February 9, 2020

I. Tola’s Identity

- A. Not much is known; he essentially appears out of nowhere.
- B. We do know that he saved (Judges 10:1) Israel. But from whom?

II. Tola’s Ministry of Reconciliation

- A. During Tola’s tenure, the people were reconciled to one another.
- B. During Tola’s tenure, the people were reconciled to God.

III. Tola and Christ

- A. Tola’s ministry of reconciliation (imperfectly but truly) anticipated Christ’s.
- B. Jesus has reconciled believers to God.

Romans 5:10–11 - ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- C. Jesus has reconciled believers to each other.

Ephesians 2:14–16 - ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

Colossians 3:11 - Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

IV. Applications

- A. The work of Christian leaders is to make known and flesh out Christ’s work of reconciling believers to the Lord and to one another.

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 - ¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- 1. God’s people are to be called to put their faith in the Lord and to practice ongoing repentance.
- 2. God’s people are to be called to live out the reconciliation with each other that is already theirs in Christ.

Colossians 3:11–13 - ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all. ¹² Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

- B. Every single Christian has an analogous, two-fold task:

- 1. To be ready to introduce others to the hope of the gospel so they might be reconciled to God (1 Peter 3:15).
- 2. To pursue peace with and among all of God’s people.

Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

James 3:18 - And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.