



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

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Tuesday, 08/17/2021

Scripture: Colossians 1:21-22

TITLE: Who Are You Calling Bad?

Are people basically good or bad? What about kids? Aren't those little bundles of joy just li'l bags of goodness? And, hey, aren't all people children of God? I mean, that's pretty good. Well, Friend, the Bible may disappoint you if you think any of those statements are true. What am I talking about?

Let's continue our study of Colossians as Paul tells us the truth of our nature:

“This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.” (Col. 1:21-22, NLT)

Well, that's not good. Paul says, “you were once far away from God.” The NASB says “alienated.” When we are born, we are separated from God. We aren't God's children. Now, in a sense, as all people are created in the image of God, there is a sense of a familial relationship. But that's where it ends. In fact, Paul drives this point home by saying, “*You were his enemies.*” Now, I don't know about you, but enemy is not a term of endearment. It's an indictment of character. We are born enemies of God.

But was it really that bad? Is it really that bad for our little babies? That sweet grandma who bakes cookies for the neighborhood kids? For the agnostic philanthropist who gives away 90% of his money? Yep. That's why Paul says our enmity was formulated and driven by our hostility in mind - this means our hatred of God. We were, you could say, giving the middle finger to God in our hearts and minds. We were living for our evil actions – our sins.

The Bible makes it clear, we are sinful people who don't love God or want God. Paul said in Romans 3:11-12 (NLT), “*No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.*” So that's pretty bad news. But Paul reminds us, if there's no bad news, we don't need the Good News.

The Good News is in verse 22. We become reconciled to God through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Paul uses a modified word for reconciled, which means completely and totally reconciled. That's why Paul says when we are saved, we become holy, blameless, and without a single fault. Now that is a reason to celebrate and worship our Savior!

So this is my challenge for you today: Thank God. For reasons that we'll never know, God saves us by grace. Ephesians 1 tells us that before the foundation of the world, he chose us to become adopted sons and daughters. He gives us a needed upgrade. We go from enemies to friends. We go from broken orphans to restored children of the King.

Take time today to thank God for His forgiveness, reconciliation, restoration, love, mercy, and grace. And while you're at it, share this teaching with someone who needs a touch from our gracious King.

Friend, now that you know the crazy amount of grace God has given you, go win the day.