

New Life - Reconciliation

Talk #2

Speaker & Length Spiritual Director, 20 Minutes

Progression Jesus Christ came into the world where selfishness imprisoned man. He experienced tensions, but went through a process of liberation from this evil and reached new life. To follow Jesus, we are invited to go through this same process He did--His death and resurrection. In order to suffer and die with Jesus, we must be willing to transform our lives. Reconciliation helps us in the healing process. The Spiritual Director should not dwell on sin nor be legalistic. Tone should be gentle and healing.

Purpose This talk combines in a single talk Jesus' suffering and death that makes new life possible, and reconciliation - an encounter with Christ by which we die to our sins, receive His forgiveness, and live the new life He gives us. Reconciliation is our response to Him. The major point to be emphasized, and which the candidates should clearly understand, is that we are healed of our human condition of sin and are reconciled to God through only one means--the death of Christ on the cross and our acceptance of Him.

Introduction

This is the first Spiritual Director talk of the weekend. It is used to establish the need for reconciliation with God - and to introduce the wonder of Grace.

- I. Jesus came into a world where selfishness imprisoned man - and it still does.
- II. Jesus chose to turn His back on the way of selfishness, and He reached New Life - and He offers that New Life to us.
- III. Jesus died so that we can be reconciled to God.
 - A. But what does reconciliation mean?
 1. Differences set aside
 2. Problems corrected
 3. Can be close to someone you weren't close to
 - B. Jesus offers us a new life that allows us to once again be close to God.

- IV.** The New Life that Jesus offers us is radically different, and it requires a radical response on our part in at least four areas (Based on Romans 12:1-3, 9, 10):
- A. Radical change in the way we live.
 - B. Radical change in the way we think.
 - C. Radical change in the way we see ourselves - not too highly, or too low.
 - D. Radical change in the way we love.
- V.** Summary - This new life offers hope, joy, meaning - share personally here, if not before.