# 2 Corinthians and The God of Reconciliation

## Dave Ellis – 1 November 2026 (watch talk here)

Dave continued our series explaining that, in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul is writing to a church with whom his own relationship had become strained. In doing so, Paul addresses the wider issue of reconciliation pointing to the greater truth that reconciliation begins with God and extends to all humanity. Paul describes two movements of reconciliation, achieved by the cross:

**1. God reconciled us to himself through Christ**

When Adam & Eve turned from God in the garden, the consequence of humanity choosing to live life on their own terms led to increasing relational fracture and sin culminating in God intervening at Bable and scattering humanity. But God did not give up on his creation. Through Abraham, God promised blessing for all nations, a promise ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. At the cross, God crossed the divide to reach us. Jesus entered our brokenness, hostility and sin reconciling us to God.

**2. God gave us the ministry of reconciliation**

But the gospel does not simply reconcile isolated individuals to God. Those who have been reconciled are called to become reconcilers. Scripture tells the story of God gathering what sin has scattered, from Abraham to the Cross to Pentecost, and ultimately to the vision of every tribe, nation and language worshipping before God (Revelation 7:9). Reconciliation does not erase differences; rather, it brings diverse people together around Jesus.

### Reflect and discuss

Start by reading the key passage: **2 Corinthians 5:14–21**.

1. **Reconciled to God:** Reflect on the beauty of the cross and God's work to reconcile all humanity to himself through Jesus. What does that mean to you personally?
2. **The mission of reconciliation:** As we live out the mission of reconciliation (not simply proximity), Dave encouraged us to cross one divide. Consider who that could be for you.
   Is there a person or group who you have kept as a category but whose story you have never heard?
   Who is God calling you to move towards, listen to, welcome, or understand better?

### Pray

Give space for people to share any reflections on this session and anything they would value prayer for.