

CONFERENCE ON RECONCILIATION

FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES

RECONCILIATION, UNITY & SALVATION

- All three are closely linked. It is impossible to have one without the others.
- Sin produces division: in the sinner, in personal relationships, in families, groups, and societies, between nations, and peoples, between humans and the surrounding creation.

HEALING for SALVATION

The healing of the damage done by sin

- of damaged or destroyed relationships
- whether by violence, domination, lies and deception, exploitation
- of hatred, distrust, suspicion, scorn, lack of respect

requires (a) a humbling in confession of the sin and (b) a will to reverse behaviour and to restore

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is

**THE FULL RESTORATION OF
BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS**

to God

to other humans (individual,
group)

ELEMENTS OF

1. Proclamation of the Gospel of reconciliation
2. Confession of sin (of persons, of groups, of nations, of churches)
3. Sorrow proportionate to the sin, at same depth as the human engagement in the sin
4. Firm renunciation of all involved in the sin

BIBLICAL & THEOLOGICAL

- if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**: that God was **reconciling** the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of **reconciliation** (τόν λόγον τῆς καταλλαγῆς)... We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be **reconciled** to God. (2 Cor. 5: 17 – 20).

- “and in this one body to **reconcile** both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their **hostility**.” (Eph. 2: 16)
- “God was pleased to have all his fullness reside in him, and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on

- Sin produces division, and leads to death.
- Salvation comes through faith in the saving, reconciling work of Jesus on the cross and in his victory over sin, Satan, and death.
- This faith includes confession of sin, and repentance (change of heart).
- God effects the reconciliation in Christ in

In the celebration of **baptism** the newly-converted person

- renounces sin, Satan, and death
- professes the faith of the Church in the Triune God;
- is plunged sacramentally into the death of Jesus;
- is born into the life/body of Christ and marked with the sign of his victory

SUMMARY

Initial reconciliation with forgiveness of sins

- Is a first taste of salvation
- Is a first step in restoration of harmony-unity

The Gospel of salvation proclaims

- Full salvation on the last day with the resurrection of the dead
- The fulness of unity in the glorified Body of