

Reconciliation with Others

Healing Streams, Savannah, GA. All scriptures are from the ESV unless otherwise noted.

If you have taken this course and done the forgiving, then the Holy Spirit may raise in your heart a desire to recover some lost relationships. Or you may now find yourself in situations of conflict and want to become a peacemaker and restorer of others—rather than run away. How to go about it? First of all, we need to know that it doesn't all depend upon us.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Romans 12:18

Next, we need to check our own heart. If we are holding any judgments against someone in our heart, we are not fully fit candidates for the work of reconciliation, because we are ourselves un-reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20). This does not mean we cannot be used, but we need to go forward in humility over our failings, well aware of our personal need to be shown mercy by all concerned, especially the Lord. Being aware of our own failings actually enables us to speak to others with compassion, rather than censoriousness (Galatians 6:1).

The necessity of a pure heart. Only a heart that is purified of the contaminants of accusation, blame, anger, fear and self-righteous offense can speak the truth in love to another person by the power of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:15). For it is especially in the context of reconciliation where there is so much opportunity for miscommunication that the enemy takes advantage of every sinful attitude in our own heart to derail the process of healing.

The snare of hidden motives. One of the difficulties of reconciliation is that we often have to engage in it with very impure hearts, because we need to talk things through with the other(s) involved in order to get our own cleansing. We go to them because we need to offer our own apology or because we held back a truth that really does need to be shared for their sake, as well as ours. A good rule of thumb is if you just can't wait to tell them what you think—hold back; if you fear spoiling your relationship with them, it just may be right to risk it. Nevertheless, beware of the danger of rushing things too quickly to resolution.

What is forbidden us:

- It is not allowed to force another's will.
- It is not allowed to condemn, cast blame, accuse or judge.
- It is not allowed to hold hurt or bitterness or anger after the day of injury.
- It is not allowed to bind someone to their sins.
- It is not allowed to sow division and further discord.
- It is not allowed to take justice into our own hands.

What is allowed us:

- **Effective prayer**--the transfer of the burden of our heart into God's Hands.
- **Speaking the truth in love** actually works—that's why God does it! (Eph 4:15)
- **Sharing the hurt of our heart.** God also grieves at times within us to reach us.
- **Loving unconditionally.** It is written that this kind of love never fails (1 Co 13)
- **Living sacrificially.** Embracing the cross for the sake of how God will use it.

Love's desire. Pursuing the five things God allows actually works to bring us into true Christ-likeness, a goal that is the heart desire of all genuine Christians. But we didn't want to become Christ like through such wounds and confrontations! Still it remains true that by patient perseverance we receive what is promised for God is a rewarder of those who



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diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). To accept these constraints and “play by the rules” is to enter into the glorious liberty of the sons of God who pursue Love’s desire to seek and save those who are lost (Luke 19:10) and are positioned to act and speak in such a way that the un-reconciled ones may be enabled to hear what they need to hear so that, if it is possible for them at that time, they can give a right response to God (2 Timothy 2:24-26).



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