

Matthew 18:15 If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

1 Peter 4:8 NKJV And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Romans 5:6-11 You see, at just the right time, when we were still *powerless*, Christ died for the *ungodly*. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still *sinners*, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be *saved from God's wrath* through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's *enemies*, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 4:1-3 I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Romans 12:18 As far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Matthew 7:16 "By their fruit you will recognize them."

Fred Hennes, Sermon #655, "The Gift of RECONCILIATION"

Reconciliation is only possible after forgiveness is granted to the one expressing genuine _____.

When we are sinned against (hurt) we as Christians have two options. One is to resolve through _____. The other is to _____ the offense.

Reconciliation involves _____ a relationship to harmony or friendship.

Before _____ we were powerless, ungodly, sinners and enemies; we were under God's wrath.

The ministry of reconciliation involves the proclamation of the _____ and its assurance that forgiveness of sin is available in Christ.

Reconciliation is focused on restoring broken relationships. And where _____ is deeply broken, restoration is a process.

Reconciliation is often conditioned on the attitude and actions of the _____.

Look for confirmation of genuine _____.

In difficult cases seek the help of a wise _____.

Only God can read hearts; we must evaluate _____.

Life Group Activity

- 1. Share a favorite reconciliation story. This can be from your life experience or the Bible.

Discussion Questions

2. Regarding this sermon, is there any truth that stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
3. What are the differences between reconciliation and forgiveness?
4. Read Romans 5:6-11. What is the condition of a person prior to being reconciled with God?
5. Read Luke 23:6-12. What new insights about reconciliation do you see in this passage?

6. In your opinion, what is the number one key for reconciliation to occur?

Application Questions & Prayer

7. Explain how you are doing at carrying out your “ministry of reconciliation.” See 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
8. To you, what does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?
9. Pray for one another so that your group may excel in the grace of reconciliation.