

Steps to Biblical Reconciliation

Luke 17:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:15-21

Introduction

I The Crisis of Reconciliation

- A. The obstacles to reconciliation
 - 1. **Fear**
 - 2. Disobedience
 - 3. **Indifference**
 - 4. “Spiritualese”
 - 5. **Selfishness**
- B. The benefits of reconciliation
 - 1. A **clear** conscience - Acts 24:16
 - 2. Personal and spiritual growth
 - 3. **Advancing** of the Kingdom - Prov 28:23

II The Motivation of Reconciliation

- A. **Obedience** to God - Jn 14:21
- B. Love for others - Col 3:13-14
- C. Restoration and **unity** - 2 Cor 2:7-8; Gal 6:1

III The Steps to Reconciliation

- A. Reconciling the world’s way
 - 1. **Apologizing**
 - 2. “Auto-forgiveness”
 - a. Healing of memories
 - b. “PC” forgiveness
 - 3. “**Time** will heal all wounds”
- B. Reconciling God’s way
 - 1. God’s **pattern** - 1 Jn 1:9; Eph 4:32; Col 3:13
 - 2. What about ... ? - Lk 23:34; Acts 2:36-39
 - 3. The **rule** of thumb - Prov 10:12; 17:9; 1 Pt 4:8
- C. Steps to Biblical Reconciliation
 - 1. When you're the **offender** - Mt 5:23-26
 - a. You are obligated to go quickly
 - b. You are to ask the offended person to forgive you

- c. You are to deal only with your own sin
- 2. When you’ve been **offended** - Mt 18:15-17
 - a. Go directly to the one who has sinned against you
 - b. Confront the person with his/her sin
 - c. If the person repents, you are to forgive him/her
 - d. You are to forgive, regardless of how you feel and you are to forgive as many times as you are asked to forgive - Mt 18:21-35; Lk 17:3-10
 - e. Take one or two others with you
 - f. Take the leaders of the church
 - g. Take it before the church
- D. Preparation for biblical reconciliation
 - 1. Attitude
 - a. **Examine** your own heart: Mt 7:1-5
 - b. Confess your own sin:
 - To God - Prov 28:13; 1 Jn 1:9
 - To others - James 5:1
 - c. Pray for wisdom and insight - James 1:5
 - d. Search the **scriptures**
 - e. Pray for the person(s) involved
 - f. Be **prepared** to forgive - Ps 86:5
 - 2. Approach
 - a. **Timing** and location
 - b. Pray together with the other person
 - c. Approach person and topic with **humility** - Phil 2
 - d. Learn to **ask** questions first - Prov 20:5
 - e. Freely share your own failings and sin
 - f. Share honestly, openly and **accurately** - 2 Tim 3:16
 - g. Listen, listen, listen!! - James 1:9
 - h. Be prepared for **initial** rejection
 - i. Be self-controlled
 - j. Pray together regardless of the outcome
 - k. Demonstrate patience and **commitment** to the relationship - Phil 1:6

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