



Breathing Hope into Your Relationships:

Hope & Fear of Reconciliation

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*“So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. **Go and be reconciled to that person.** Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.”*
Matthew 5:23-24

Reconciliation: Two parties restoring a broken relationship through confession & repentance and forgiveness.

Repentance: A remorse for sin, commitment to change of behavior with an openness to accountability, and willingness to make restitution when possible.

Steps to bring hope through Confession & Repentance with of Reconciliation.

Seek guidance from the Holy Spirit in all your relationships

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.”, “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.”
John 14:16, 16:13

Quick obedience to God’s voice is priority (set a time).

“Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord.”
Lamentations 3:40

Approach don’t avoid (seek wisdom from Godly people)

“Go and be reconciled to that person.”
Matthew 5:24

Own 100% of your sin. (Don’t use the words – If, But, or Because – write it out)

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?”
Matthew 7:1-5

Ask for forgiveness without expectation (a desire not demand reconciliation)

“Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy.”
James 4:9

Make restitution wherever possible (ask)

“Do to others as you would like them to do to you.”
Luke 6:31

Ministry of Reconciliation:

*“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful **message** of reconciliation.”*
2 Corinthians 5:19

Seven Signs of Genuine Repentance

There are seven signs that indicate the offender is genuinely repentant:

1. Accepts full responsibility for his or her actions.
2. Welcomes accountability from others.
3. Does not continue in the hurtful behavior or associate with it.
4. Does not have a defensive attitude about being in the wrong.
5. Does not dismiss or downplay the hurtful behavior.
6. Does not resent doubts about their sincerity or the need to demonstrate sincerity—especially in cases involving repeated offenses.
7. Makes restitution where necessary.

Helpful Article on Reconciliation:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-move-from-forgiveness-to-reconciliation/>

Reflection / Discussion Questions:

Have you ever experienced someone who has apologized to you for a significant experience or event you suffered through? What was your experience? What was good about it? What was difficult?

Is there a broken relationship that you wish you could restore? What would it take for this to happen?

Which part of this broken relationship do you feel a sense of ownership for?

What do you think God is asking you to do? Are there fears hold you back from obedience? What steps could you take today?

What makes it difficult for you to live in a world of broken relationships?