



# Reconciliation

“THE SACRIFICES OF GOD ARE A BROKEN SPIRIT...” — PSALM 51:17

Week 6 of 8

OFFICE clip // PRAY // the hardest job // conflict to peace // Garnett, Japan, Iraq

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

Romans 12:18

Reasons: God commands it. • Our witness depends on it. • Our souls need it.

*A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*

Proverbs 14:30

*In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.*

Ephesians 4:26-27

Living in peace means embracing the process of reconciliation.

## Recovery Step 6:

Evaluate all my relationships. Offer **f o r g i v e n e s s** to those who have hurt me and make **a m e n d s** for harm I've done to others, except when to do so would harm them or others.

*Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy... Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

Matthew 5:7, 9

HARDEST THINGS EVER // You thought confession was hard? Try forgiveness!

### PART 1: FORGIVE

#### Why?

- ▶ Revenge never **w o r k s**.

We don't have the power to change yesterday no matter how much pain we cause today.

- ▶ Bitterness always **b a c k f i r e s**.

The only person we hurt is ourselves. // If they cared how you feel, they'd apologize!

- ▶ God **f o r g a v e** you.

... “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

Matthew 18:32-35

- ▶ You'll need **m o r e f o r g i v e n e s s**!

Blessed are the merciful! // If you think you're done, think again!

#### How?

Read Romans 12:17-21 (p. 788)

- ▶ Let God be the **j u d g e**.  
Was it really wrong? or just painful? // Maybe your problem is really with God!
- ▶ Ask for God's **m e r c y** on the other person.  
Jesus on the cross // maybe they were being ignorant // maybe they're sinful
- ▶ Say the words, “I **f o r g i v e** you.”
- ▶ Ask God to **u s e** your **w o u n d s**.

### PART 2: MAKE AMENDS

Our night of toilet paper madness at Tracy's house... Making amends

#### Why?

- ▶ Reconciliation is more important to God than “**w o r s h i p**.”  
*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*  
Matthew 5:23-24
- ▶ You owe a **d e b t**.  
*Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.*  
Romans 13:7-8

#### How?

- ▶ Make a **l i s t**.
- ▶ Apply the **G o l d e n R u l e**.
- ▶ **A s k** if you can do anything else.  
My Name is Earl... It's not about Karma, it's about that person!

After all, God did **b o t h p a r t s** for us.

*For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:14-18

IS PEACE WORTH FIGHTING FOR?