

**RECONCILIATION is more important than being RIGHT**

**think of an offense . . . get it in your mind . . . got it?**

Ok, now . . . **What SIDE of the Offense were you ON ?**

**Were you the one who “WAS offended”**

**Were you the one who “DID the offending”?**

& **what if** I told you – **God’s Word** makes it **clear**

that it **Doesn’t Matter** **WHICH SIDE** of the **Offense you** are **on**

**God’s Command** is **exactly** the **same** . . . **BE RECONCILED**

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**Whether you are on the**

**“I WAS Offended”** Side – **or** on the

**“I DID the Offending”** Side

**Either way - If** we **want** to be **FREE** of the **Bait of Satan**

**We’ve** got to **keep one GOAL** in **mind** at **all times**

**BE RECONCILED**

**Let’s Pray**

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## Turn over to Matthew 5:21

In this section of the Sermon on the Mount

Jesus is TAKING a Command from the Law of Moses  
that is about our ACTIONS

& showing the FULFILLMENT of that Command  
By Applying it to our HEART

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in these Vs's - Jesus is talking specifically about  
HARBORING OFFENSE – IN our HEART

& Jesus wants us to KNOW – there are serious consequences  
to HARBORING OFFENSE in our HEART

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### Matthew 5:21 (NLT)

*21 “You have heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.’*

(this is the focus on actions in the Law of Moses)

### Matthew 5:22(a) (NLT)

*22 But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! . . .* (this is the focus on your Heart – in the fulfillment of the Law)

& so - if you are Harboring Offense in your Heart,  
& have become Angry – you are subject to Judgement

& then – Notice (in v.22) the INCREASING JUDGMENT –  
as the ANGER in your HEART increases

**Matthew 5:22(b) (NLT)**

**22 . . . (then) *If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court.***

**This is a ref to INSULTING the person you are angry at**

so when you move from ANGER to INSULTING  
you are subject to an Increased Judgement

**& then - Matthew 5:22(c) (NLT)**

**22 . . . *And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.***

**Guys - when you are HARBORING an OFFENSE**

& you go from Anger, to Insulting, to Cursing someone –  
you are in danger of greater & greater judgment

**This is very similar to the Unforgiving Servant in MAT 18**

Who was Sent to Be Tortured – Because of his Unforgiveness

In both situations - Jesus is clearly saying – Harboring Offense  
that brings increasing ANGER - LEADS to Judgment in your life

**the ANSWER is – FORGIVE - & BE RECONCILED  
with those who have Wronged you, or Offended you**

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Vs's 21 & 22 are for the person who is on the  
"I WAS Offended" Side of things

But look how Fast Jesus SWITCHES to the  
"I DID the Offending" Side of things

Matthew 5:23-24 (cont the same thought) (NLT)

*23 "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, (meaning they are Harboring Offense against YOU)  
24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*

WAIT JUST A MINUTE!

This is an ENTIRELY Different Situation

Now – we're talking about a person  
who FEELS – that WE have Offended THEM

We're talking about a person – who is on  
that Increasing Scale of ANGER – TOWARD US

BUT - what if we DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING WRONG??

Jesus is really clear – In Matthew 5:24(a) (NLT)  
*24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar . . .*

This implies an URGENCY to try to FIX this

this does NOT mean - you are NOT ELIGIBLE to worship God  
If someone is ANGRY at you

Jesus is conveying the Importance  
& the Priority - of BEING RECONCILED

Maybe - BEING RECONCILED to the person who is Offended  
is a TRUE Act of Worship - & a True Sacrifice

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So Again Matthew 5:24 says (NLT)

*24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*

WHY would Jesus express SUCH URGENCY

In us Being Reconciled to a Person  
who is holding an offense against us ?

Is this Urgency for OUR GOOD?  
Or is it for the OTHER PERSON'S GOOD?

It's for the OTHER PERSON'S GOOD!!

Because if THAT PERSON is moving from Anger  
to Insulting to Cursing us – then THEY are IN DANGER

& if we can do something to help them OUT of that DANGER

then Jesus says – that is a HIGHER PRIORITY  
than us bringing our Sacrifice (or offering) to God

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Now – here is a really HARD TRUTH to ACCEPT

In this situation – RIGHT or WRONG doesn't Matter

What Matters is the URGENCY & PRIORITY  
of BEING RECONCILED

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When we read BOTH SIDES – TOGETHER  
*From V.21 to V.24*

Jesus is being clear – No Matter WHICH SIDE of the OFFENSE  
You ARE ON – His Command to you is the same

**BE RECONCILED – As Quickly As Possible**  
**& Make it a Priority**

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& Can I just say one other important thing

When we find ourselves on the  
“I DID the Offending” Side of this

We Often DON'T THINK – we Did NOT Do anything WRONG  
In fact – we are Often – PRETTY CERTAIN of it

BUT – Here is what John Bevere says about this:  
“Often we judge ourselves by our INTENTIONS and we judge everyone else by their ACTIONS”

This is SO TRUE - - [REPEAT]

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**Often** – we have an **INCORRECT VIEW** of our **ACTIONS**

**Because** we **believe** our **INTENTIONS are Good**

**I've been** on the **Receiving End** of a **person** who **prides themselves**  
in **being brutally honest** - with their **own opinion**

**no matter** how much **damage**  
their **opinion does** - to **another person**

**because** (*shockingly*) **they believe** their **intentions** are **good** –  
**even** in their **destructive words**

& - **as much pain** as **that** has **caused me**

**I realize** – **there** are **times** when I **have also** had an **Incorrect View**  
of **MY OWN ACTIONS** toward **other people**

**Because I BELIEVED** My **Intentions were Good**

The **POINT IS** – **We can ALL Justify** our **Actions**  
**By Believing** our **Intentions are GOOD**

But **Jesus** is **NOT talking** about us - **Justifying our ACTIONS**

**Jesus** is **Exhorting Us** to **BE RECONCILED**

**Whether** we are **Right or Wrong**  
**Whether** we had **Good Intentions or Not**

**Jesus says – GO to that Person - & BE RECONCILED !**

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**Whichever SIDE of the OFFENSE we are on**

Either - **"I WAS Offended"** – or  
**"I DID the Offending"**

**Either way - We are called  
to take the First Step – TO BE RECONCILED**

**Psalm 34:14 (NLT)**

***14 Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.***

**Romans 14:19 (NET)**

***19 So then, let us pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another.***

**We are called to PURSUE what MAKES for PEACE  
& PURSUE what LEADS to Building Up One Another**

**Which Means – we MUST Approach Reconciliation  
With the RIGHT ATTITUDE**

**We've got GO - SEARCHING for PEACE,  
& WORKING (striving) to MAINTAIN PEACE**

**We've got to PURSUE PEACE,  
& PURSUE the BUILDING UP of the other person**

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**Which MEANS** – We've **got** to **Crucify our PRIDE**  
& **go** in **True HUMILITY**

Going **IN PRIDE** –  
Or **DEFENDING** & **JUSTIFYING** our **Actions**

Will **just pour** **JET FUEL** on the **FIRE** of **OFFENSE**

**EVEN IF** you are **Right**  
& **EVEN IF** you **believe** you **haven't done** anything **wrong**

**When** we **Go** – We **MUST GO** – with **True HUMILITY**  
& with **ONE SINGLE GOAL** – **BE RECONCILED**

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& **Jesus Makes** this **PRIORITY CLEAR**  
As he **continues** – **still** in these **same vs's** (in **Mat 5**)

**Cont'g - Matthew 5:25-26 says (NLT)**

***25 “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison.***

***26 And if that happens, you surely won't be free again until you have paid the last penny.***

**Vs's.21-22** say - **If you are ANGRY** – over **some offense** -  
**BE RECONCILED**

**Vs's 23-24** say - If **someone** has **Been Offended BY YOU** –  
**BE RECONCILED**

Vs's 25-26 say - If you Have An Adversary For ANY Reason –  
BE RECONCILED

The command from Jesus – in ALL THREE situations  
is exactly the SAME – BE RECONCILED

& in TWO of these 3 Situations – there are clear  
NEGATIVE Consequences – TO NOT BEING RECONCILED

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Let's look at just one other Text today (*cause it's important*)  
Turn over to Matthew 18:15

Unfortunately – this section of Mat 18  
has most often been described as “Church Discipline”

Implying that the Primary GOAL here  
is the church “Discipling” a believer

But that is clearly NOT the PRIMARY GOAL of this Section

The NET BIBLE (*which I highly recommend*) Gets it RIGHT

The Section heading over Mat 18:15 - in the NET BIBLE - says  
Restoring Christian Relationships

THAT is the PRIMARY GOAL of this section

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**So – Let’s Read - Matthew 18:15 (NLT)**

***15 “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back.***

The **PRIMARY GOAL** here – is to **WIN** that **Person Back**  
**MEANING – BE RECONCILED** to that **person**

**GO to that person** – in **Humility**, & **Gentleness**,  
**Pursuing Peace** and **Unity**

**GO to them** & **let** them **know** – **in love**  
that **they** have **HURT YOU**

The **GOAL being** – that **person** would “**HEAR YOU**”  
& **APOLOGIZE**

& **you** would **BE RECONCILED** to that **Person**

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& The **2<sup>nd</sup> Step** – **STILL** has **RECONCILIATION**  
as the **PRIMARY GOAL**

**Matthew 18:16 (NLT)**

***16 But if you are unsuccessful (at reconciliation), take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.***

**These Witnesses** are **NOT** the **BRUTE SQUAD**  
to **threaten** this **person** with “**Church Discipline**” (*ridiculous*)

**The goal** here is **STILL RECONCILIATION**  
& these **1 or 2 others** – are **for accountability**

**AND** they can **function** as **counselors** – to Try to **RECONCILE**  
the **person** who has **Caused the Offense**

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**Then – the 3<sup>rd</sup> Step - Matthew 18:17 (NLT)**

***17 If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. (meaning don't associate with them)***

**EVEN HERE** – the **GOAL** is **STILL RECONCILIATION**

**Even if** this **person won't accept** the **church's counsel**  
& are **removed from the church**

the **GOAL** is **STILL RECONCILIATION**

**We see** this **play out** completely

in **1 COR 5** & **2 COR 2** (*together*) - & in **2 THES 3**

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**The POINT TODAY is this**

**Thru ALL of the Teaching in the N.T  
that deals with OFFENSE in the church**

**IN it all - & THRU it all  
the Absolute Primary GOAL is – BE RECONCILED**

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**& Without a Doubt  
the #1 Obstacle to RECONCILIATION**

In MY LIFE & In EVERY Situation of OFFENSE I've seen

The #1 Obstacle to RECONCILIATION – IS PRIDE

**PRIDE KILLS - & We've All – Got the Disease**

**& if we are going to Receive this command  
to BE RECONCILED**

Then First - we are going to have to - CRUSH our PRIDE

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**Remember – Defending your-SELF  
or Justifying your ACTIONS**

Will NEVER Bring RECONCILIATION  
where there has been OFFENSE

**It is only thru an ATTITUDE of  
True HUMILITY, GENTLENESS, & PATIENCE**

**With a Commitment to MAKE ALLOWANCE  
for each other's faults – because of our LOVE**

**& only by Making Every Effort - to remain UNITED in the Spirit  
Binding ourselves together with PEACE . . .**

**That we can BE RECONCILED**

### **Ephesians 4:1–3 (NLT)**

***1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.***

***2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.***

***3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.***

**that is what our LORD JESUS  
Calls Each & Every Believer To**

**Do NOT be IMPRISONED in OFFENSE**

**DO NOT TAKE - The BAIT of SATAN**

**Let's Pray**