

The Discipline of Reconciliation

Matthew 5 / Luke 23 / Colossians 1 / 2 Corinthians 5

*Reconciliation is not going back **to what was.***

*It's letting Jesus raise **what can be.***

Matthew 5:9

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:21–24

²¹ You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Luke 23:32–34

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴ And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Colossians 1:19–22

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

2 Corinthians 5:17–21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Honesty of the Cross

Luke 23:34

Luke 23:34

³⁴ And Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'

“Truth and lies are not what one says, but what one does.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer / Christmas Sermons

*Reconciliation begins when I stop **hiding**
the wound and **hand** it to the Father.*

The Grief of the Grave

Holy Saturday

Matthew 5:23–24

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

*What I refuse to grieve,
I will struggle to reconcile.*

The Hope of Resurrection

2 Corinthians 5 / Colossians 1

2 Corinthians 5:17–19

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What if you caused the conflict?

Matthew 5:23–24

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

When you're the one who did the harm

1. Own it specifically. Not “if I hurt you.”
2. No excuses. No “but you...” No qualifiers.
3. Ask, don't demand, forgiveness. Let them set the pace.
4. Make restitution. Repair what you broke.
5. Change the pattern. Repentance without change is manipulation.

“If contempt reduces value, honor restores it and lays a foundation for all our relationships.”

Jon Tyson / Beautiful Resistance

2 Corinthians 5:20–21

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*Reconciliation is not **restoring** what was.*

*It is **resurrecting** what can be.*

Colossians 1:19–22

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

*Reconciliation is not going back to **what was**. It's letting Jesus raise **what can be**.*

Discussion Question

*Is there a wound you've been carrying
that you've never actually grieved,
or handed to the Father?*