

REPAIRING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST: PART 4

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“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” (2 Corinthians 5:17–19, NIV)

HOW TO REPAIR BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

1. RELEASE the offender.

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31–32, NIV)

3 options:

- REPAY them.
“Never pay back evil with more evil.” (Romans 12:17a, NLT)
- RESENT them.
“You are only hurting yourself with your anger.” (Job 18:4a, GNB)
- RELEASE them.
“Be gentle and ready to forgive; never hold grudges. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” (Colossians 3:13, The Living Bible)

2. REPAIR any damage I have done.

“I began telling people that they should change their hearts and lives and turn to God and do things to show they really had changed...” (Acts 26:20, NCV)

See Luke 19: Zacchaeus “I will pay back four times the amount”

3. RECONCILE the relationship as much as possible.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Matthew 5:9, NIV)

"Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody." (Romans 12:18, GNB)

How to Make an Apology

- Pick the right **TIME**.
"There is a time and a way for everything..." (Ecclesiastes 8:6, NLT)
- Have the right **ATTITUDE**.
"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had." (Philippians 2:5, NLT)
- Choose the right **WORDS**.
"Sharp words cut like a sword, but words of wisdom heal." (Proverbs 12:18, CEV)

"I was wrong."

"I'm sorry."

"Please forgive me."

4. REPLACE the pain with peace.

"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace..." (Colossians 3:15, NLT)

ACTION STEP:

INVITE AND BRING TEN PEOPLE TO A CANDELIGHT SERVICE!