

Reconciled & Ready
May 22, 2022

FBC MISSION: Seeking to honor God by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus who love, live, and share Him.

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2

Introduction:

Big Idea: God _____ reconciliation, but his rescue plan is _____ upon you and me to live reconciling.

You need reconciliation in your journey through life and these truths will help your understanding to grow:

1. Every person has a _____ for reconciliation (Isaiah 59:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-9)

2. _____ is the _____ of reconciliation (18)

3. _____ is the _____ of reconciliation (18,19)

4. _____ is the _____ of reconciliation (19,21)
 - Imputation is a word that is used to describe Jesus's taking of our sin on Himself
 - **As we trust in His death on our behalf we are granted the righteousness of His perfect life and we are declared justified.**

5. If you have been reconciled to God, you are now to _____ (5:18b,20, 6:1-2)

Truth into Action

1. Anticipate relational wreckage in this life.
2. Jesus took the initiative to fix wrecked relationships and we should too.
3. Remember It takes one person to forgive.
 - a. When you sin against another, own it immediately, repent and seek forgiveness.
 - b. When you are hurt or sinned against or wounded, practice forgiving.
4. Remember it takes two people to be reconciled.
 - a. Keep in your minds what Jesus Christ has done to secure your redemption
5. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:18). **Live your life pursuing the ministry of reconciliation.**



Please understand we want to help you know Jesus personally and journey with you in taking fresh steps of obedience daily. We would love to pray with you and for you. Join us at the end of the service for prayer or send us your request on the Connect Card and we will lift them up throughout the week.

Table Talk

Warm Up: Why does relational wreckage happen (read James 4:1 or help)?

Truth to review:

- God calls us to forgive others, just as He forgave us through His son, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:32) Forgiving others is possible only through God's enabling grace.
- God takes forgiveness very seriously, and indeed His extension of forgiveness to us is affected if we refuse to forgive others (Matt. 6:14-15).
- Forgiveness is different from reconciliation. Forgiveness involves one person and it is the canceling of a debt. We can extend forgiveness, without restoring a relationship with the person who wronged us. God simply asks us to do our part and not be a hindrance in the healing process.
 - There are behaviors which are irritants that require us to be "forbearing" – or patient with others. These types of behaviors include mistakes, personality quirks and making poor choices.
 - Offenses include hurtful omissions (such as forgetting to keep a promise or obligation), hurtful words and actions, and sin/harm (such as adultery, addiction, or abuse). Offenses must be handled through forgiveness. If they are not, offenses can become triggers for larger arguments in relationships.
- Forgiveness does not have to be requested before it is granted. The offended can extend forgiveness, whether or not the offender asks for it. Forgiveness requires only one person, while reconciliation requires two people.
 - Sin cannot be overlooked and forgiveness does not mean someone is denying the seriousness of sin. Rather, it acknowledges a sin has occurred. Forgiving others allows the person who forgives to also release and detach from the wrong that occurred.
 - While forgiveness begins with a few simple words, it is also a process requiring intentional decision/s to offer forgiveness or choose not to remember that sin. It often requires hard work through change in our attitudes, beliefs, feelings, and actions. Forgiveness takes courage and is often personally demanding.

Questions for Discussion:

1. What enables us to forgive others who have perhaps wronged us greatly?
2. How does God's example of forgiveness demonstrate how we should forgive others?
3. Does it make it easier for you to forgive others knowing God has forgiven us for so many things? Why or why not?
4. Contrast our natural response/s when someone has wronged us versus how Jesus described what our response/s should be.
5. Can forgiving another person occur without a restored relationship, or reconciliation with that person? Why or why not?
6. When someone wrongs us, we have three options: ignore, take revenge, or forgive. Why is forgiveness the best option? Is it the easiest option? Why or why not?

Closing Prayer: Father God you are a peace pursuing God and we want that for our lives as well. Help us to recall your profound sacrifice and enable us to walk through life remembering your forgiveness. Use this truth to help me better understand reconciliation and forgiveness.