



# Reconcile

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER

# Peacemaker Outline

Topic	Chapter	Date	Teacher
Intro & Overview	N/A	September 8 <sup>th</sup>	Adam Collins
Glorify God: Responding to Conflict	Chapter 1	September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Grebe
Glorify God: Called to be a Peacemaker	Chapters 2 & 3	September 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Adam Collins
Get the Log Out: Overlook or Pursue	Chapter 4	September 29 <sup>th</sup>	Stew Bruner
Get the Log Out: Progression of an Idol and the Source of Conflicts	Chapters 5-6	October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Grebe
Gently Restore: Reconciliation Process RESTORE	Chapter 7	October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Stew Bruner
Gently Restore: The What, Why and Who of Mediation	Chapters 8-9	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Stew Bruner
Mediator's Checklist & GOSPEL Agenda	Supplemental Materials	October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Adam Collins
<b>Go &amp; Be Reconciled: Biblical Forgiveness</b>	<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>November 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Ron Grebe</b>
Go & Be Reconciled: Conclusion	Chapters 11-12	November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Greg Maine

# Biblical Forgiveness

- Ray Pritchard writes “*Staying angry is easy. Forgiving is difficult.*”<sup>1</sup>
  - Do you agree or disagree?



*“The axe forgets; the tree remembers.” – Zimbabwean Proverb*

- Ken Sande writes “*We often find ourselves practicing a form of forgiveness that is neither biblical nor healing.*”<sup>2</sup>
  - What are some examples of non-biblical forgiveness?
- Ken Sande writes “*It is impossible to truly forgive others in your own strength – especially when they have hurt you deeply or betrayed your trust.*”<sup>2</sup>
  - Anyone find this to be true?

<sup>1</sup>Ray Pritchard, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*

<sup>1</sup>Ken Sande, *The Peace Maker*, p. 204-205

# Biblical Forgiveness Resources

- Forgiveness is too big of a topic to cover in a single week – the deeper the hurt the more you may need to ready & study.
- Excellent biblical resources:
  - *The Healing Power of Forgiveness* by Ray Pritchard
  - *From Forgiven to Forgiving* by Jay Adams
  - *Total Forgiveness* by RT Kendall
  - *When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense* by Robert Jeffress
  - *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness* by John MacArthur
  - *Forgiving Others, CTO Ministries* by Howie & Dennie Dowell
  - *The Cure (Chapter 5)* by John Lynch, Bruce McNicol, and Bill Thrall
  - *Putting Your Past in Its Place* by Stephen Viars
  - *The Peace Maker* by Ken Sande



## Which Side are You On?

*“Our attitude towards forgiveness tends to vary, depending on which side of the equation we look at. When we are on the receiving end of mercy, we naturally esteem forgiveness as one of the highest virtues. But when we are the aggrieved party, forgiveness often seems a gross violation of justice!”*

*John MacArthur  
The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*

# Defining Biblical Forgiveness

- To forgive someone means to release him or her from liability to suffer punishment or penalty:<sup>1</sup>
  - *Aphiemi* (which is often translated as “forgive”) means to let go, release, or remit:
    - It often refers to debts that have been paid or canceled in full
    - Matthew 6:12, 18:27, 18:32
  - *Charizomani* (another word for “forgive”) means to bestow favor freely or unconditionally:
    - Forgiveness is undeserved and cannot be earned
    - Luke 7:42-43, 2 Cor 2:7-10, Eph 4:32, Col 3:13
- Forgiveness is the obligation of the forgiven.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ken Sande, *The Peace Maker*, p. 207

<sup>2</sup>Robert Jeffress, *When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense*

# Good Quotes

*“Not forgiving does not hurt the other person, it only hurts yourself.” – Author Unknown*

*“Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.” – C. S. Lewis*

*“Forgive and forget is wishful. Remember and let go is realistic and biblical.” – Author Unknown*

*“As costly as it is to forgive, there is only one consolation – unforgiveness costs far more.” – Ray Pritchard*

# True Forgiveness<sup>1</sup>

- What if God forgave each of us in exactly the same way we forgave others?<sup>2</sup>
  - Imagine if God constantly stewed over our sins and was mentally convincing himself of how horrible we are.
  - Imagine if God brought up our past sins each time we stumble.
  - Imagine if God was vindictive by making our sins public.
  - Imagine if God said, I forgive you, but we can never be close again.
- If that is how God “forgave” us, we wouldn’t truly feel forgiven:
  - Unfortunately, many of us forgive like that.
  - We need to learn true forgiveness from how our Heavenly Father forgives us.

<sup>1</sup>Adam Collins, *True Forgiveness*

<sup>2</sup>Ken Sande, *The Peace Maker*, p. 204

# Biblical Forgiveness

- Why should we forgive others?

*“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” – Ephesians 4:32*

*“<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” – Colossians 3:12-13*

- The bible has a term for unforgiveness: bitterness<sup>1</sup>

*“<sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no ‘root of bitterness’ springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled.”  
– Hebrews 12:14-15*

<sup>1</sup>Robert Jeffress, *When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense*

# Why Should we Forgive?

- Forgiveness is an important condition to fellowship with God:<sup>1</sup>
  - It is not an option
  - God commands it

*“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” – Mark 11:25*

*“<sup>3</sup>Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, <sup>4</sup>and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”  
– Luke 17:3-4*

<sup>1</sup>Jay Adams, *From Forgiven to Forgiving*

# Not Biblical Forgiveness

- What biblical forgiveness is not:
  1. Biblical forgiveness is not a feeling – it is an act of the will:
    - We must call on God to change our hearts.
  2. Biblical forgiveness is not forgetting :
    - Forgetting is a passive process, forgiveness is an active process.
  3. Biblical forgiveness is not excusing (or dismissing or minimizing):
    - Excusing implies “What you did wasn’t really wrong.”
    - Forgiveness says “We both know what you did is wrong and without excuse. But since God has forgiven me, I forgive you.”
- Forgiveness is a decision – it is not stuffing things down and not talking to the offender.

# 15 Things Biblical Forgiveness Does Not Mean<sup>1</sup>

1. It does **not** mean approving of what someone else did.
2. It does **not** mean pretending that evil never took place.
3. It does **not** mean making an excuse for other people's bad behavior.
4. It does **not** mean justifying evil so that sin somehow becomes less sinful.
5. It does **not** mean overlooking abuse.
6. It does **not** mean denying that others tried to hurt you repeatedly.
7. It does **not** mean letting others walk all over you.
8. It does **not** mean refusing to press charges when a crime has been committed.
9. It does **not** mean forgetting the wrong that was done.
10. It does **not** mean pretending you were never hurt.
11. It does **not** mean you must restore the relationship to what it was before.
12. It does **not** mean you must become friends again.
13. It does **not** mean there must be a total reconciliation as if nothing ever happened.
14. It does **not** mean that you must tell the person you have forgiven them.
15. It does **not** mean that all the negative consequences of sin are canceled.

<sup>1</sup>Ray Pritchard, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*

# So What is Biblical Forgiveness?

- If biblical forgiveness is not a feeling or forgetting, what is it?
- Biblical forgiveness is a four-fold promise:<sup>1</sup>
  1. I will not dwell on this incident.
  2. I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.
  3. I will not talk to others about this incident.
  4. I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.
- When God forgives us, He promises to not remember our sins against us anymore:

*Which is  
the  
hardest?*

*“For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” – Jeremiah 31:34*

*“I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.” – Isaiah 43:25*

*“Blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” – Romans 4:8*

<sup>1</sup>Ken Sande, *The Peace Maker*, p. 209

# Promise #1: Not Dwelling on the Incident

- But I can't forget – often happens when it is a deep hurt
- Key is to learn how to take our thoughts captive and to renew our mind:

*“<sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have **divine power** to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and **take every thought captive to obey Christ**, <sup>6</sup>being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.” – 2 Corinthians 10:3-6*

*“<sup>1</sup>I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the **renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”  
– Romans 12:1-2*

# Promise #1: Not Dwelling on the Incident

- How to renew your mind – CCCFR:
  - Catch your thought or attitude as sinful (2 Cor 10:3-6)
  - Confess your sinful thought or attitude to God (1 John 1:9)
  - Claim the Holy Spirit's power to overcome the sinful thought or attitude (Phil 4:13 or Phil 1:6)
  - Force your mind to change to godly thoughts (Phil 4:8)
  - Repeat this outline when temptation comes up again (Gal 6:9)

You will gain victory when you focus on these two

## Promise #2: Not Bringing Up the Incident

- You must give up trying to force people to understand **how much they hurt you**:

*“This may be the greatest barrier to forgiveness. I would be willing to forgive if only the one who hurt me knew how badly he hurt me. But this is an impossible standard, and as long as you hold it, you will never forgive. But if you are going to forgive, you must give all that up. Until you do, forgiveness will remain a distant dream, and you will remain chained to the past. You cannot set yourself free until you release others from the burden of understanding all that they did to you.”*

*– Ray Pritchard, The Healing Power of Forgiveness*

- You must embrace that God **allowed this hurt** in your life and that **He has designed it for your good**:

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” – Romans 8:28*

# Promise #3: Not Talk to Others About It<sup>1</sup>

- We become a prosecuting attorney, consistently building our case to anyone who will listen:
  - We forget that just because we are hurt, it doesn't mean we are right.
  - We become unable to see from any other vantage point but our own.
- We become intent on telling our side of things to as many people as possible:
  - Eventually, almost everyone we know is poisoned with our distorted, thinly veiled character assassinations.
  - We gradually alienate ourselves from anyone unwilling to carry our banner.
- You must embrace that God has designed this hurt for you to carry alone.

*Putting Your  
Past in Its  
Place by  
Stephen Viars*

*“<sup>5</sup>Love keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

*— 1 Corinthians 13:5-7 (NIV)*

# Promise #4: Not Let it Hinder Our Relationship

- RT Kendall writes:<sup>1</sup>

*“When we have not totally forgiven those who hurt us, it gives us a bit of pleasure to realize that they are afraid or intimidated ... sometimes we say, ‘I forgive you for what you did, but I hope you feel bad about it.’ This shows we still want to see them punished.”*

- Jay Adams writes:<sup>2</sup>

*“You hold great power over another until you forgive him. When you do forgive, however, the power shifts; he now holds great power over you. This is why some persons do not want to forgive.”*

- Robert Jeffress writes:<sup>3</sup>

*“Those who demand repentance before granting forgiveness are operating under the illusion that somehow their offender’s repentance will be sufficient to cover the offense ... there’s a difference between receiving forgiveness and granting forgiveness.”*

<sup>1</sup>KT Kendall, *Total Forgiveness*

<sup>2</sup>Jay Adams, *From Forgiven to Forgiving*

<sup>3</sup>Robert Jeffress, *When Forgiveness Doesn’t Make Sense*

# Truths about Biblical Forgiveness<sup>1</sup>

- Forgiveness is not so much an event as it is an ongoing condition of the heart. It's a journey, not a destination.
  - No one makes that journey easily or quickly.
  - And no one makes that journey without God.
- Forgiveness is about God:
  - We forgive **because God** has forgiven us.
  - We forgive **because God** has commanded us to forgive.
  - We forgive **because God** has given us the strength to forgive.
  - We forgive **because God** will take care of judging the other person.
  - We forgive **because God** means more to us than staying angry.
  - We forgive **because God** matters more than the pain we feel.
  - We forgive **because God** can be trusted to do right.
  - We forgive **because God** is God and we are not.



# What if We Don't Forgive?

- Can we lose our salvation if we don't forgive?

*“<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” – Matthew 6:14-15 (see also Mark 11:25)*

- Best understood in the context of the end of *The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant* in Matthew 18:21-35:

*“<sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” – Matthew 18:32-35*

# What if We Don't Forgive?

- The Greek word for jailer in verse 34 is βασανίζω and is also translated as torturer:
  - *It is a person serving as a guard in a prison, whose function was to torture prisoners as a phase of judicial examination – ‘prison guard, torturer.’*
- Ray Pritchard writes:<sup>1</sup>

*“The torturers will come and take you away. What torturers? **The hidden torturers of anger and bitterness, which eat your insides out.** The torturers of frustration and malice, which give you ulcers and high blood pressure and migraine headaches and lower back pain. The torturers that make you lie awake at night on your bed stewing over every rotten thing that happens to you.”*
- John MacArthur writes:<sup>2</sup>

*“The severity of the king’s punishment here is actually illustrative of how God will discipline unforgiving believers. Notice also that the punishment administered, though extremely severe, seems to picture only the harshest kind of **discipline, not external condemnation.** He was handled over to the torturers – **not executioners.**”*

<sup>1</sup>Ray Pritchard, *The Healing Power of Forgiveness*

<sup>2</sup>John MacArthur, *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*

# 12 Warning Signs a Person Has Not Forgiven<sup>1</sup>

1. Frequently struggling with disobedience to God without gaining consistency in your spiritual growth.
2. Having a persistent anger problem (outward or inward).
3. Blaming others for your problems.
4. Being very moody or frequently depressed.
5. Suppressing feelings, being very superficial in relationships and/or withdrawing from others.
6. Having negative, ungrateful, unthankful attitudes toward God or others.
7. Being sarcastic or “cutting” in your communication.
8. Gossiping and/or ventilating to others about the offender.
9. Sensing God’s presence is far from you; fellowship with God is hindered.
10. Dwelling on self-pity; feeling victimized.
11. Having difficulty forming and maintaining close, meaningful relationships.
12. Excusing your sinful responses because of another’s offense.

<sup>1</sup>Called to Obedience (CTO) Ministries (<https://ctoministries.org>)

# God Doesn't Want Us to Suffer, Does He?

- Robert Jeffress writes:<sup>1</sup>

*“God’s plan for Christ included intense suffering. Think about it. If God’s plan for His own Son included injustice and intense pain, should I be surprised when God’s plan for my life includes the same?”*

*God’s answer to Job’s questions about unjust suffering can be answered in two words: Trust Me.”*

*“Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.” – Hebrews 5:8*

*“When someone has wronged you, it is also helpful to remember that God is sovereign and loving. Therefore, when you are having a hard time forgiving that person, take time to note how God may be using the offense for good. When you perceive that the person who has wronged you is being used as an instrument in God’s hand to help you mature, serve others, and glorify him – it may be easier for you to move ahead with forgiveness.” – Ken Sande<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Robert Jeffress, *When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense*

<sup>2</sup>Ken Sande, *The Peace Maker*, p. 209

# God Doesn't Want Us to Suffer, Does He?

*“Good theology is essential if we are going to suffer well. It will help us persevere during our trials, and it will give us hope.” – Dustin Shramek<sup>1</sup>*

*“<sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.” – Romans 5:3-4*

- When do you know if you are healing?<sup>2</sup>
  - It may be followed by an immediate release of bitter feelings
  - You can see the event or issue from God's perspective
  - You can see hurt through the lens of how God is changing you or what He wanted you to learn
  - You feel compassion for the offender
  - You are able to love the offender unconditionally
  - See how God has used the offender as a tool for your spiritual growth

<sup>1</sup>Dustin Shramek, *Waiting for the Morning During the Long Night of Weeping*

<sup>2</sup>Called to Obedience (CTO) Ministries (<https://ctoministries.org>)

# Encouragement from Scripture

- We often believe we can not forgive others because of our hurt.
- However, scripture says we can:

*“<sup>19</sup>I pray that you will know how great His power is for those who have put their trust in Him. <sup>20</sup>It is the same power that raised Christ from the dead. This same power put Christ at God’s right side in heaven.” – Ephesians 1:15-21 (NLV)*

*“just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” – Romans 6:4-6*

*“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” – Hebrews 4:14-16*

- Stephen Viars writes: *“You can learn to call on your resurrected Savior to give you the power you need to face each day’s difficulties with faith, grace, and love.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Stephen Viars, *Putting Your Past in Its Place*

# Summary

- Forgiveness is not the end:<sup>1</sup>
  - It is a means to an end – a new and better relationship.
  - Reconciliation is the bigger picture of which forgiveness is only the initial element.
- Forgiveness is granted, reconciliation is earned:<sup>2</sup>
  - Forgiveness depends upon me reconciliation depends upon us.

*“<sup>7</sup>And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup>So it was not you who sent me here, but God.” – Genesis 45:7-8*

*“<sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones. Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them” – Genesis 50:20-21*

- Next Week: Conclusion (Chapters 11 & 12)

<sup>1</sup>Jay Adams, *From Forgiveness to Forgiving*

<sup>2</sup>Robert Jeffress, *When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense*



# Reconcile

HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER