

Process of Forgiveness – 5
“How To Reconcile”

Luke 17:1-5 (NKJV)

- Vs. 3: Wrong **committed**
- Wrong **confronted**
- Wrong **repented**
- Wrong **forgiven**

Sometimes we need to **repent** (be forgiven)
Other times we need to accept repentance (**forgive**)

[How important is reconciliation to God?]

Matthew 5:21-26 (NKJV)

- God prefers reconciliation over our worship

When to Reconcile – Both Ways]

- a. Are they even aware of the offense?
 - 1 Peter 4:8 / Proverbs 10:12 - “Love covers the multitude of sins” (Forbearance vs. Forgiveness)
 - Sins of the heart are between you and God
- b. Will it help or hurt?
- c. Wait on the right time. (Joseph – Genesis 45)
You may need time for **healing** (emotions)
They may need time for **healing** (emotions)

Example: Pastor friend came to me about allegations (false)
My name was similar to another guy.

How to Reconcile – Both Ways]

1. Those who have **wronged us** (hurt us)
 - a. Go to them and them alone
 - b. Explain the offense (be cautious with your verbiage)
 - It may just be a misunderstanding (friendly fire / no malice intended)
 - c. Don't get defensive...period. Reconciliation is the goal not further damage.
 - d. We can't **demand repentance**

Example: Pastor accused me of preaching heresy.

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2. Those who **we have wronged** (We've hurt)
 - a. Humbly and graciously
Repent...period
 - b. Ask for forgiveness with no excuses or explanations
 - c. Be prepared for a "**NO**" to your request for forgiveness
 - They may not know **how**
 - They may need time for **healing** (emotions)
 - d. We can't **demand forgiveness**

Example: In 1980 I went to as many people as possible.
 From 1980 – quick to repent

[Take Away]

1. Receive forgiveness from God
2. Forgive yourself
3. Forgive others