

Process of Forgiveness 4
Reconciliation

Forgiveness is a **choice**.

1. Releases people of debt
2. Releases people to God's righteous judgement (mercy)
3. Releases us from tormentors
4. Releases God's healing

Reconciliation is the goal and purpose of forgiveness]

[Do we want reconciliation or retribution?]

- Vengeance locks us into unforgiveness.
- Reconciliation is God's **justice**
- God's **mercy** is often perceived as an **injustice**.

Reconcile: To **buy back** or bring back into right relations
To **restore** relationally
To **win over** to friendliness
To make or cause to become **amicable** (to be at peace)
To bring into **harmony**

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NLT)

[3 areas in regard to reconciliation]

1. Vs 18 - 19: God reconciled us to Himself in Jesus
 - Jesus suffered the just penalty for sins
 - Reconciliation is God's justice
2. Vs. 19: We have this message of reconciliation
 - We are to share this good news
 - God's not angry at us
3. Vs. 20: Will you be reconciled to God?
 - "Come home where you belong"
 - Believe, repent and receive

Example: Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

- Father forgave and reconciled
- Younger son repents and was reconciled

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- Older brother refuses to reconcile

Luke 15:28-32 (NLT)

- He wanted retribution **not** reconciliation
- Reconciliation was God's justice (**mercy**)

Example: Lamech (Genesis 4:23-24)

- 7x70 in vengeance in regard to his murder
- Jesus reversed this thinking (Matthew 18:22)
7x70 in forgiveness

Example: Joseph (Genesis 45)

- Forgave his brothers
- Potiphar's wife / Potiphar
- The jailor / the butler

Reconciliation was possible because of **forgiveness**.

Joseph preserved the righteous seed for Messiah's lineage.

Joseph saved Egypt and Israel from famine.

[Take Away]

1. Reconciliation is justice because of the **cross**.
2. God is all about relationship **not** religion.
3. Reconciliation is made possible through **forgiveness**.