

1. **Address everyone involved.** If we have sinned against a group of people, then we address everyone involved. We don't address one and exclude the other. "Well, he's kind of the leader of the group, so I'll just confess to him and won't make amends with those others." No. We address everyone involved. Most consistently, this takes place in my family.
2. **Avoid if, but, and maybe.** It's so important that you hear this. When you're meeting with someone to make amends, to seek reconciliation, to own your sin, you don't use that as a platform for accusation. "I need you to forgive me because you..." is not you seeking forgiveness; it's you making accusation, and it's wicked. It means you're not serious about your own sin against the Lord first and this person second, regardless of your percentage.
3. **Admit specifically.** We're not vague in our confession. You own it. You sinned.
4. **Acknowledge the hurt.** We need to learn to acknowledge the hurt. "I wounded you. I hurt you, brother. Forgive me. I have sinned against God. I have sinned against you. Here's specifically what I have done. I'm so sorry. I know this can't be easy to hear. I know this has to be frustrating at many levels. Please forgive me."
5. **Accept the consequences.** It's important that you hear me out on this. Reconciliation doesn't always end with the restoration of the relationship as it was before.
6. **Alter your behavior.** When you're altering your behavior, you're showing someone you're serious about getting out of the cycle you've been walking in. How many of you have confessed the same sin against the same person repeatedly? When those we love get to watch us seriously pursue thorough accountability, thorough biblical counseling and going through the steps, they see a seriousness

about putting our sins to death, about seeing that behavior modified under the grace and beauty of God. We alter our behavior.

7. **Ask for forgiveness.** "Please forgive me." Now here's the big question...What if they say no? What if we do all of this, we address everyone involved, there are no ifs, buts, or maybes, we're very specific, we acknowledge our hurt, we promise to seek to grow out of that behavior, and we ask for forgiveness, and they go, "I just don't think I can give it to you"? That's real world stuff, isn't it? "I just don't think I can give it to you." We can't own other people's response. All you can do is ask for forgiveness and give the rest to God. Don't let the fear of rejection prevent you from owning your part.