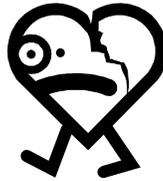


Restoring Broken



Relationships

A *LIFENight* Bible Study ~ July 9, 2003

2 Corinthians 5:18 (KJV) God ... hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18 (GW) [God] has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships.

2 Corinthians 5:18 (MSG) God ... settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other.

Philippians 2:1-2 (MSG) If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care — then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends.

Romans 15:5 (MSG) May ... God develop maturity in you so that you get along with each other.

John 13:35 (KJV) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Matthew 5:9 (NLT) God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

WHAT PEACEMAKING IS NOT:

- It is not _____ the problem
- It is not _____ the problem

HOW TO RESTORE A RELATIONSHIP:

1. Talk to _____ before talking to the person.

James 4:1-2 (NIV) What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't

get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God.

2. Always take the _____.

Matthew 5:23-24 (MSG) If you enter your place of worship and, about to make an offering, you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.

1 Peter 3:7 (NJB) Husbands must always treat their wives with consideration in their life together ... This will prevent anything from coming in the way of your prayers.

Job 18:4 (TEV) You are only hurting yourself with your anger.

3. Sympathize with their _____.

Psalms 73:21-22 (TEV) When my thoughts were bitter and my feelings were hurt, I was as stupid as an animal; I did not understand you.

4. Confess your part of the _____.

Matthew 7:5 (NLT) First get rid of the log from your own eye; then perhaps you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

1 John 1:8 (MSG) If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves.

5. Attack the problem, not the _____.

Proverbs 15:1 (CEV) A kind answer soothes angry feelings, but harsh words stir them up.

Proverbs 16:21 (TEV) A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.

6. _____ as much as possible.

Romans 12:18 (TEV) Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.

Matthew 5:9 (MSG) You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

7. Emphasize reconciliation, not _____.

1 Peter 3:11 (NLT) Work hard at living in peace with others.

Matthew 5:9 (KJV) Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.