

New beginning
Resolve to Forgive
2 Corinthians 5:17-19

- I. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.** 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

a. *WHO* is responsible for reconciling?

- YOU ARE: And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake... And David said unto him(Mephibosheth) Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.2 Samuel 9:1-7

b. WHY do you reconcile when you have been wrong:

- Because it is RIGHT: You can be justified in Your Actions but not exhibiting Christian love. Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? John18:10-11

c. WHEN:

Sometimes while you are still "Hanging." Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. Luke 23:34

- II. The Need for Reconciliation:

a. People will do you wrong:

1. Because they are Jealous: And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying... And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. Genesis 37:11-18
2. Because you are a Christian: Blessed are ye, when men

shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Matthew 5:11

3. Just Because: Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they *be* in Hazazon-tamar, which *is* En-gedi. 2 Chronicles 20:2

4. Because you are not better than Jesus: Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said... Matthew 26:59-61

b. People are sometimes just bad:

1. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6
2. Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven... Matthew 18:21-22

c. The devil want you to live in UNforgiveness

1. Unforgiveness hinders your prayers: But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:15
2. Unforgiveness hinders your own forgiveness: And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. Mark 11:25

III. The danger of unforgiveness:

- a. Unforgiveness robs us of the full life God intends for us: Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. Hebrews 12:14-15 (NIV)
- b. Unforgiveness is a gateway for satan: ... Anyone you

forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:5-11(NIV)

- c. Unforgiveness(sin) will destroy your health: There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine indignation; Neither is there any health in my bones because of my sin. Psalm 38:3 ASV

IV. The importance of Reconciliation:

- a. Heap coals of fire on your enemies head: Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Romans 12:20
- b. Makes an enemy your footstool: And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand , Till I make thine enemies thy footstool. Luke 20:42-43
- c. Forgiveness produces Fruitfulness: And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, *said he*, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house. And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. Genesis 41:51-52

V. Forgiveness Demonstrated

- a. Perhaps we are most like God when we forgive those who have wronged us.
 - But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: Luke 15:22
 - And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32
- b. Perhaps we are most UNLIKE God when we don't forgive.
 - But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. Matthew

18:28

c. Forgiveness cannot be forced it flows from LOVE.

1. Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Philemon 1:9
2. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

d. Forgiveness Involves Reception.

1. Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels: Philemon 1:12
2. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19(NIV)

e. Forgiveness Involves Restoration

1. Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord? Philemon 1:16
2. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Galatians 6:1