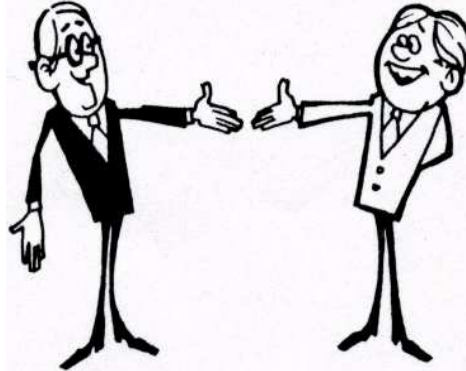


Reconciliation

Mark 11:25-26

Matthew 5:23-26

If you have anything against anyone... you must forgive them—so you can be forgiven.



If someone has something against you... you must go to them—willing to be reconciled.

Matthew 18:16-17

If someone wrongs you, go (with a proper attitude per Romans 12:9-21) to them PRIVATELY (per Proverbs 25:8-10) to show them their fault. If they won't listen, then take one or two with you to establish every word. If that doesn't work, ONLY then bring it before the church.

If you have been WRONGED, forgive. Say something like this, without fear or ill will:

"I need to talk to you privately about something that is bothering me." When alone, ask, *"Have I said and/or done something to offend you that caused you to say and/or do what you did?"*

Then, state the offense. Allow them to explain and/or apologize (you apologize too, if necessary). Express your forgiveness.

If you have been WRONG, ask forgiveness. Say something like this, without fear or ill will:

"The Lord has shown me I was (not, you were) wrong in saying and/or doing what I did. I owe you (not, you owe me) an apology. I am (not, you should be) sorry. Will you please forgive me?"

Sincerely thank them if they forgive you. If they don't forgive...the balance of guilt is tipped in their direction. However...

If they are unwilling to forgive, continue to forgive them as Christ forgave you (when you did not deserve to be forgiven, per Colossians 3:12-14), but carefully and prayerfully follow the steps in Matthew 18:16-17 to obtain loving reconciliation. With God, you CAN do this!

DON'T:

- BURY A HURT THINKING IT WILL PASS
"I'll get over it one of these days..."
- TELL OTHERS BEFORE TELLING THEM
"Let me tell you what they did to me..."
- MAKE ASSUMPTIONS OR ACCUSATIONS
"I know you did..." Or, "It was all your fault..."
- INTEND TO GET EVEN WITH THEM
"I'll make them pay for this..."

DON'T:

- WAIT LONG THINKING THEY'LL FORGET
"Oh, it'll blow over after a while..."
- CONFESS INAPPROPRIATE FEELINGS
"You didn't know this, but I felt hatred/lust..."
- TRY TO SHARE THE BLAME WITH THEM
"I'm sorry, but if only you had not..."
- INJECT A DOUBT ABOUT YOUR GUILT
"IF I have been wrong, please forgive me..."