

Deeper Study Guide

Series: Family Matters

Study 7: *Conflict Reconciliation in Christ II*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5.18-19 (NKJV)

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Objective: to know how to handle conflicts in a Christ-centered relationship through the ministry of reconciliation.

Introduction: Even though we are commanded to walk in a Christ-centered relationship with one another, **conflicts** may arise in our relationships with one another.

Our Study: 2 Corinthians 5.18-19 (NKJV)

1. What does our Scripture say?

v18a. All things are of God... - God initiated reconciliation

WORD: 1 John 4.19. We love because he **first** loved us. (NIV)

v18b. who reconciled us to Himself through **Jesus Christ**'

a) God used Christ as the _____ of reconciling the world to Himself.

v18c. and has given us the **ministry** of reconciliation.'

b) God has **entrusted** us with the _____ of reconciling the world to Himself.

v19 that is God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **not imputing** their trespasses to them, and committed to us the **word** of reconciliation.

c) God, through Christ, gives us the _____ of reconciliation – God **does not** count our sins against us but offers forgiveness and makes a restored relationship with Him possible.

Hypocrisy: God gave us the ministry of reconciling *sinners* to Himself, yet we *struggle* to reconcile with one another when we offend one another.

WORD: Colossians 3.13. Forgive one another, if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (NIV)

2. What does our Scripture reveal?

- **About God:** He desires reconciliation, not separation, through Christ, He has initiated forgiveness to restore our relationship with Him.
- **About You:** Ministry of reconciliation is not merely something we received; it is something God has entrusted to us and called us to represent through our relationships with others.

3. What thoughts do I need to change to think like Christ?
 - **Old Thought:** I see people from my own perspective, focusing on their sins and lifestyles how they are separated from God, and how they may have personally wronged me.
 - **New Thought:** I see people through God's eyes: sinners who He desires to reconcile to Himself, and He has entrusted me to share His message of reconciliation with them.
 - **Transform Thoughts:** God's Word becomes a new thought when you **internalize** His truth and allow it to shape your **beliefs, feelings, and desires**, forming a pattern of thinking that influences how you live and the decisions you make.
4. What does transformation like Christ look like?
 - I pursue reconciliation instead of holding on to offense
 - I see people through God's eyes instead of their offense
 - I seek peace while remaining faithful to God's truth

5. How to apply the Ministry of Reconciliation:

- a) _____ forgiveness – an [individual] decision to release an offense and choose not to bring it back up or hold it against the person again. **WORD:** 1 Corinthians 13.5. Love keeps no record of wrongs
- b) _____ the relationship – a [mutual] decision that takes *both people* to decide to forgive one another.
- c) _____ the relationship – the process of rebuilding a broken relationship (trust, intimacy, respect, etc.) is repaired by establishing a new relational identity that **leaves** the past behind, **learns** from what happened, and **lives** differently moving forward into a new and healthy relationship centered on Christ. **WORD:** 2 Corinthians 5.17. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (NIV)

Principle: Our new identity in Christ leaves the old life behind and embraces the new. Likewise, a renewed relationship leaves the past behind and looks toward what God can restore and make new in Christ.

Important: Family conflict caused by the gospel: Matthew 10.24-25

The goal isn't you must reconcile with them at all costs nor respond to rejection with retaliation. You must stand on these three eternal principles: a) remain faithful to God's Word, b) maintain godly boundaries, and c) trust the outcome to Him.

'Never compromise God's Word for the sake of reconciling with someone who expects you to affirm or endorse their sin. Biblical reconciliation requires us to speak the **truth** in **love** with **longsuffering** because truth, love, and longsuffering work together.'

Good News: Conflicts can be reconciled in Christ by extending to others the same grace and forgiveness we have received from Him, always leaving an opportunity to restore the relationship.