

Sermon Notes
February 25, 2018
2 Samuel 14:1-33

Reconciliation: "the restoration of friendly relations"
or
the very heart of God

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ESV

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Isaiah 1:17 ESV

17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Psalms 68:6 ESV

6 God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Matthew 22:37-40 ESV

37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

It is quite clear, then, that no one can be obedient to God's Word in isolation. God's design is for us to connect in relationships. That's why he told us how to do it.

Matthew 5:23-24 ESV

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

The goal of forgiveness is reconciliation

Forgiveness: A commitment by the offended to pardon graciously the repentant from moral liability and to be reconciled to that person, although not all consequences are necessarily eliminated.

Chris Brauns, Unpacking Forgiveness

"Forgiveness is inextricably linked to reconciliation. When God forgives, he not only pardons sinners from guilt. He also begins a new relationship with them. The Bible never speaks of God's forgiveness apart from reconciliation."

Chris Brauns

7 Signs of Genuine Repentance:

1. Accepts full responsibility for his or her actions
2. Welcomes accountability from others

3. Does not continue in the hurtful behavior or anything associated with it
4. Does not have a defensive attitude about being in the wrong
5. Does not dismiss or downplay the hurtful behavior
6. Does not resent doubts about their sincerity or the need to demonstrate sincerity
7. Makes restitution when necessary

If hesitant to reconcile consider these things:

1. Be humble in your attitude
2. Be prayerful about the one who hurt you
3. Be willing to admit ways you might have contributed to the problem
4. Be honest with the offender
5. Be alert to Satan's schemes
6. Be realistic about the process

Philippians 2:3-4 ESV

3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Luke 6:28 ESV

28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Ephesians 4:27 ESV

27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

Ephesians 4:31-32 ESV

31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Speaking about Chris Carrier and his relationship with David McAllister, the man who tried to kill him, columnist Leonard Pitts said this:

"The man is serious about God. I don't say that because he has a master's degree in divinity and until recently was the director of youth ministries at his church. Nor because he moved to Texas, where he and his wife and two daughters plan to open a Christian bookstore. I say it because he bowed alongside a man who tried to kill him. I know I couldn't do it. Yet Chris tried against all logic to redeem one weak and dirty little scrap of man."