

Message Series:
Can We Get Along?
A Study on Biblical Peacemaking
June 14, 2009

Today's Message:
Go and Be Reconciled
Matthew 5:21-26

Matthew 5:23-24

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

Today's Main Thought: Pursue genuine peace and reconciliation by working hard at asking and giving forgiveness.

Go and Be Reconciled The Fourth G in the Four G's of the Peacemaking Process.

Clear the path for genuine peace by...

1. Admitting I cannot offer full forgiveness in my own strength

- I need the word to remind me of the full forgiveness I have received in Jesus Christ, Psalm 103:12; 130:3-4; Jeremiah 31:34; Colossians 3:12-13
- I need the Holy Spirit to be my guide as my flesh desires to stay in a place of unforgiveness, John 14:26.

2. Deciding to ask or give forgiveness, vv. 23-24; Matthew 6:12; 18:23-27

- Forgiveness is not a feeling
- Forgiveness is not forgetting
- Forgiveness is not excusing

3. Committing to the four promises of forgiveness, 1 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 4:32

- I will not dwell on this incident
- I will not bring this incident up and use it against you.
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

Rubble standing in the pathway to peace...

- Asking for forgiveness without repentance
- Withholding forgiveness "placing the person on a forgiveness payment plan"
- Reluctance to accept the consequences my sin has caused
- Breaking the commitment to the four promises of forgiveness

Living Out Authentic Peace

- Pursue authentic peace through my thoughts
- Pursue authentic peace through my words
- Pursue authentic peace through my deeds

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Next Week: Start of a new series

Jesus Who Are You?

A study on the miracles of Jesus through the book of John