

The Authentic Christian Life

Steps to Biblical Reconciliation

I The Crisis of Reconciliation

A. The obstacles to reconciliation

1. Fear
2. Sin
3. Indifference
4. "Spiritualese"

B. The benefits of reconciliation

1. A clear conscience
2. Personal and spiritual growth
3. Advancing of the Kingdom

II The Motivation of Reconciliation

A. Obedience to God - John 14:21

B. Love for others - Col. 3:13-14

C. Restoration and unity - 2 Cor. 2:7-8; Gal. 6:1

III Reconciling a Broken Relationship

A. Reconciling the world's way

1. Apologizing
2. "Auto-forgiveness"
 - a. Healing of memories
 - b. "PC" forgiveness
3. "Scar tissue" time line

B. Reconciling God's way

1. God's pattern - 1 John 1:9; Eph.4:32; Col. 3:13;
39501056. What about ... ?
39501057. The rule of thumb - Prov. 10:12;17:9; 1 Pet.
4:8

C. Steps to Biblical Reconciliation

1. When you're the offender - Matthew 5:23-26
 - You are obligated to go quickly
 - You are to ask the offended person to forgive you
 - You are to deal only with your own sin
2. When you've been offended - Matt. 18:15-17

- Go directly to the one who has sinned against you
- Confront the person with his/her sin
- If the person repents, you are to forgive him/her
- You are to forgive, regardless of how you feel and

you are to forgive as many times as you are asked to forgive (Luke 17:3-10). **When you forgive, you are making a promise not to bring the matter up again to anyone, including yourself!**

- Take one or two others with you
- Take the leaders of the church
- Take it before the church

D. Preparation for biblical reconciliation

1. Attitude

- Examine your own heart: Matthew 7:1-5
- Confess your own sin
 - To God - 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:16
 - To others - James 5:1
- Pray for wisdom and insight
- Search the scriptures
- Pray for the person(s) involved
- Be prepared to forgive

2. Approach

- Timing and location
- Pray together with the other person
- Approach person and topic with humility
- Ask questions first
- Freely share your own failings and sin
- Share honestly, openly and accurately
- Use "feeling" statements
- Listen, listen, listen!!!!!!
- Be prepared for initial rejection
- Be self-controlled
- Pray together regardless of the outcome
- Demonstrate patience and commitment to

the relationship

Bob Hallman – The Epic Life

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