

The Right Way To Restore a Relationship
Congregational Worksheet – Wednesday, March 18, 2009

This worksheet was created by Pastor Kincaid to help you complete and keep structured notes during the corresponding sermon. To fill in the blanks of this worksheet listen to the sermon from the date noted in the header of this worksheet. The sermon MP3 audio can be streamed or downloaded from the sermons page of the church website at <http://www.goshenfirstag.org/sermons.php> or a CD can be purchased (for \$0.50) from the church Media Ministry.

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The Word of God tells us very clearly that as Christians we should always do our best to live at peace with everyone that we come into contact with.

Notice what we are told in The Book of Hebrews 12:14...

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:
Heb 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled;

That word “follow” means: To pursue, to press toward, to seek out.

Which shows us that regardless of how people may _____ you, regardless of how you may _____ about them, and regardless of what kind of person they might be, God requires us to be at peace with everyone that we are acquainted with, no exceptions.

But I’m sure that we would all agree that if there is one commandment in The Bible that is difficult to obey, it’s this one!!!

Because the fact of the matter is that when somebody does you wrong or treats you badly, it makes it very difficult for you to even _____ to reconcile with them, let alone going through the process of seeking peace with them.

A lot of times when people sin against us, whether it’s by being insensitive, abusive, slanderous, or whatever the case may be, our flesh raises up and wants _____, not _____.

And no matter how spiritual we claim to be, we all have to admit that after you’ve been trampled on, it’s hard to turn the other cheek, and after you’ve had your feelings hurt, it’s very difficult to obey this commandment, despite how clear it might be.

***If you want to see just how difficult it is to actually obey this commandment, just wait until someone does you wrong and then read verses like, Col 3:12-13, Eph 4: 31-32, Luke 6: 35-36, or Rom 12: 17-18.**

But the fact of the matter is that no matter how difficult it might sometimes be for us to do, God still _____ and _____ us to “... follow peace with all men”.

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No matter what the situation is, God *always* wants us as His people to do our best to see that all of our relationships are restored and in right standing with the people around us.

But like I've already mentioned, sometimes that's much easier _____ than _____.

You can even notice how the disciples responded to Jesus after He was teaching them this very thing...

Luk 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, **It is impossible but that offenses will come:**

Luk 17:3 **Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.**

Luk 17:4 **And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.**

Now notice how they responded...

Luk 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

Because the response that these men gave actually holds the _____ to us being able to _____ this command!

And the reason that I say that is because we have to be more concerned with "keeping the faith", than we are about "giving in to our flesh".

The response that they gave really brings to light the comment that John The Baptist made when he said... **Joh 3:30** He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

And that's exactly the mindset that we have to have when it comes to obeying this command...

Are we going to follow our _____, or are we going to follow after _____ like The Lord desires us too?

When it comes to studying a topic like reconciliation, we have to go into it with the understanding that we may not be able to _____ our circumstances, but we can control the way that we respond to them.

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And when you consider the consequences of forsaking this command...

Heb 12:14 Follow peace with all *men*... **without which no man shall see the Lord:**

Mat 6:15 **But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**

It makes it more than apparent that every Christian needs to know “The Right Way to Restore A Relationship”, and how to and go about the process of obeying this important, yet difficult command.

***So what is “The Right Way to Restore A Relationship”?**

The first thing that you have to understand is what reconciliation is _____.

Because, “following after peace” with someone doesn’t consist of you _____ a confrontation with the person your in conflict with.

We have to understand that running from a problem, or trying act like it doesn’t exist, or even being afraid to confront the person about it, will do nothing but _____ and _____ the problem.

We also have to understand that “following after peace” with someone doesn’t consist of you attempting to _____ the person that you are at odds with.

Acting like a doormat, always “giving in”, or letting the person walk over you might be a good way to help _____ with how they feel about you, but it won’t do a thing for how _____ feel about them. As a matter of fact, when it comes to your side of things, it will only make matters worse.

And the reason that these two things are so important to point out is because all to many times Satan actually deceives people into thinking that “overlooking the problem” or “being the bigger man” is a spiritual way to go about handling the situation, but that couldn’t be further from the truth.

So once we understand what “following peace” is not, we then have to understand some of the essential steps that we need to take to see this process accomplished. And there are primarily 7 steps that we need to be aware of, as well as be willing to appropriate.

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#1. Always be the one that takes the initiative towards reconciling.

Simply put, never _____ for the person that you are at odds with to come to you about it, but make sure that you're the one that goes to them.

Notice what Jesus said in The Book of Matthew 5:23-24...

Mat 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee;

Mat 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Those verses shows us that regardless if we feel that we are at any type of fault or not, we are to go to the person that we are having trouble with and try to make things right with them.

It is essential to understand that when you are the one that takes the initiative towards making the situation right, two very important points come to pass...

1. It provides the _____ for the problem to be worked out rather than to fester and be left undone.
2. It proves to the person that you are having the problem with that you _____ to work this problem out and that you don't want there to be any contention between you.

And both of those things have to be in place before any situation can be truly resolved.

I can't stress enough that we are _____ the ones that should take the initiative towards reconciliation, and we should always take this step immediately. Simply put, We should never wait for them to come to us, and we should never wait in us going to them.

#2. Talk to God before you talk to the person that your with odds with.

Whenever you find yourself in a disagreement with someone, make sure that you ask God for His advise rather than asking a _____ what their take is on the situation.

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By doing this it will secure two very important things...

1. It will guarantee that the council you receive is correct.
2. It will keep you from gossip, slander, backbiting, and all of the other works of the flesh that are mentioned in Gal 5.

Also, make sure that you don't fall to the infamous excuse of...

"I just needed to _____".

Because we should never forget that The Book of Psalms consists of many occasions where David vented, he just made sure that he only vented to God

Also, as you are speaking to God about the situation you are in, ask Him to _____ you, before you go to them.

Be sure to ask The Lord to help you to be temperate, understanding, and wise toward the situation that you're in.

We should never try to approach a problem without approaching God about the problem first, and we should never try to deal with others before we give God time to deal with us first.

By doing this, it will insure that when you go to them you will be... _____ down, in the right frame of mind, and that you're going to them with the right motives.

We can never forget that the essence of us ever being in right standing with others is completely _____ upon us being in right standing with God first.

Neglecting to take this essential step almost always results in making a bad situation even worse.

#3. Be willing to understand your part of the conflict.

When you are at odds with someone, if you aren't willing to consider your part in the conflict, but rather you just want to focus on their part of the conflict and everything that they've done wrong, you are making it impossible for the situation to be reconciled.

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Bro. Danny Taylor always says,

“It’s an awful thin pancake that doesn’t have two sides”.

And that fact has to be accepted as you go to resolve your differences with other people. You have to be _____ to accept that there is always two sides to every story.

And because of that, we have to be open to doing 5 things as far as “our side” of things is concerned...

1. _____ *both* the person that is offended, and make sure that you ask God what you have done wrong.
2. _____ that you may be at fault in some way, and that it’s not all them.
3. _____ to what you have done wrong.
4. _____ for what you have done and for the way that it has made them feel.
5. _____ to get them to do the same thing concerning their side of the situation.

Whenever you find yourself at odds with someone, always ask God to help you *feel* how they are feeling and to be *understanding* of their side of the situation so you don’t keep the restoration process from being accomplished.

Never allow yourself to _____ their feelings and their side of things, simply because you are engulfed in your own!

When it comes to reconciliation, you must be selfless, not selfish.

#4. Attack the problem, not the person.

When someone does us wrong, or when a person is upset with us, I think it’s safe to say that we almost always find ourselves getting upset with them in return.

But if we aren’t careful, by doing that, we will start focusing all of our frustration

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toward the _____ involved, rather than the _____ at hand. And things can *never* be resolved in this way.

Because if we continue to harbor resentment and anger towards the person, even _____ the problem is discussed and amends have been made, we may have dealt with “the problem”, but no actual reconciliation has truly taken place, simply because resentment and contention sit exist.

Whenever we set out to resolve our differences with another person, we should never be interested in only a _____ fix, because if the problem is worked out but the contention is still there, you are only setting yourself up for more problems to take place with that person in the future.

#5. Have an optimistic outlook concerning their intentions and attitudes

Whenever you are at odds with someone, make sure that you never _____ the worst, always _____ the person your dealing with the benefit of the doubt, and be sure that you _____ them at their word.

Causing a person to fail to do those 3 things is Satan’s primary way of keeping people from reconciliation, rather than accomplishing it.

It is always human nature to assume the _____ about a person that you are upset with, but as Christian’s we have to make sure that what our flesh automatically tries to do, we allow the power of The Spirit to override and tame!!!

If we aren’t careful, we can make the situation much worse just by assuming the worst, so we have to take this step of the process very seriously.

#6. Understand that all you can do is your part.

The fact of the matter is that regardless of what God has commanded us concerning reconciliation, and regardless of how badly we might desire and try to be restored back into a right relationship with someone else, we can’t make it happen.

Two parties resolving their differences is _____ dependant on both

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parties being willing to see the process come to pass.

Reconciliation can never be _____, but it is always optional simply because it is choice.

#7. If the other party refuses to reconcile, what do you do?

Quite frankly, there are only 2 things that you can do...

#1. Make it known that you hope they will someday change their mind, and when they do, you will be _____ and _____ to make things right.

#2. Commit the matter to prayer.

Don't just let the matter go just because you did your part, but pray that God would bring the situation to a speedy and a certain end, so that the peace process can be complete, rather than simply letting the problem linger.

We have to accept the fact that regardless of what _____ wants and despite our attempts to make amends, that doesn't mean that our efforts to reconcile are always going to be _____ by the other people that are involved.

But we can also never forget that _____ can help change their minds and cause the will of God to be accomplished in full.

***It doesn't matter what kind of _____ you are facing, or what kind of _____ you are dealing with, if you will follow these 7 steps, you will be doing all you can from your side of things to make the situation right and to end your differences.**

Which is all that God expects of us in the first place.

Col 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

Col 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

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Luk 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and *to* the evil.

Luk 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.