

RECIPE FOR RECONCILIATION

RESTORING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

Romans 12:18

Broken relationships began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve, through sin, broke intimate fellowship with God. The need for reconciliation between God and each one of us has existed ever since! At one time we were enemies of God, going our own way apart from Him, but Christ has made it possible to be reconciled to God.

Romans 5:10

A. WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

Reconciliation is the act of settling or restoring differences. Most often, reconciliation means the restoring of a relationship. It is a settling or resolving of differences between friends.

- The Old Testament Hebrew word kaphar, which means “_____,” is most often translated as atonement. Atonement is that sacrificial act that covers a person's sins and brings that person into reconciliation with God.

Proverbs 16:6

- The Greek word katallasso, translated “_____” in the New Testament, means “to change mutually” or, figuratively, “to settle a debt amicably.” Jesus Christ has become the sacrifice for our sins. He settled our debt, reconciling us to God and giving us a ministry of reconciliation to others.

We owed a debt we couldn't pay. He paid a debt He didn't owe.

2 Corinthians 5:18

TYPES OF RECONCILIATION

- _____ — to bring accounting records into agreement.
- _____ — to bring a broken relationship into harmony.
- _____ — to be at peace with our circumstances or with ourselves.
- _____ — to be at harmony with God.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF RECONCILIATION JOSEPH (GENESIS 37:2-45:15)

The Bible is a relational textbook. The Old Testament story of Joseph is one of family conflict full of bitterness and betrayal. Surrounded by older brothers who hate him, Joseph is treated unmercifully, sold as a slave and destined to live in a pagan country under extreme pressure.

Genesis 45:15

B. WHAT IS ALIENATION?

Alienation occurs when a person withdraws or separates from another person, causing one to be excluded from others.

Job 19:13

Colossians 1:21-22

TYPES OF ALIENATION

- _____ — alienation of affections (husband or wife being drawn away by a third party) — the conveyance or transfer of property to another.
- _____ — unfriendliness or hostility toward friends, family or the values of others.
- _____ — withdrawal from reality to the extent that there is no true understanding of one's self, resulting in difficulty in developing relationships with others.
- _____ — the state of being separated from communion with God because of sin.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF ALIENATION DAVID (2 SAMUEL 13-18)

Many parents feel the pain and remorse of knowing that they have failed. David's personal relationship with his son Absalom is one of the most heartrending examples of anger, bitterness and unforgiveness among close family members.

2 Samuel 18:33

C. WHAT IS MEDIATION?

- Mediation is the intervention between conflicting parties to promote reconciliation.
- A mediator is an outside agent brought in to produce a change or compromise between opposing individuals. Through effective communication, the mediator aids in reconciling differences.

Job 33:23-24

1 Timothy 2:5

TYPES OF MEDIATORS

- _____ — an outside chemical agent introduced into a chemical or biological process to produce change.
- _____ — an unbiased individual who is engaged to bring agreement to a relationship. (lawyer, counselor, crisis intervention expert or professional mediator)
- _____ — friend or family member who authentically cares for each individual and relies on the Holy Spirit to help clarify communication and reveal truth.
- _____ — Jesus Christ, the one and only Mediator between a Holy God and sinful mankind.

GOALS OF A MEDIATOR

- Unconditional _____ of each other.
- Mutual forgiveness.
- Fair and _____ communication.
- Insight into personal value and worth.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF MEDIATION ABIGAIL (1 SAMUEL 25:2-42)

Abigail's ministry of reconciliation surfaces in the story of two stubborn individuals, David and Nabal, Abigail's surly husband. A wealthy landowner, Nabal refuses David's request for food and shelter by hurling insults at him and his ragged army.

1 Samuel 25:35

SEVEN DON'TS FOR SUCCESSFUL LISTENING

ARE YOU LISTENING?

- **Don't** feel you must do the _____. *Ecclesiastes 3:7*
- **Don't** give premature advice. *Proverbs 18:13*
- **Don't** become _____. *Proverbs 19:11*
- **Don't** become hot-tempered. *Proverbs 15:18*
- **Don't** _____ at others. *Proverbs 11:12*
- **Don't** hold on to hatred. *Proverbs 10:12*
- **Don't** _____ a confidence. *Proverbs 11:13*

Next: Characteristics of Conflicting Relationships

