

BBCC Bible Study Notes
From the Series: Peacemakers
“Repairing Broken Relationships”
July 19, 2020

How can I seek to repair a broken relationship?

1. Go to the person with whom there is conflict. (Matthew 18:15, Galatians 6:1)
 - When should you overlook an offense? (Proverbs 19:11)
 - When should you go to them and try to work it out? (Matthew 5:23-24)
2. Speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)
 - Listen first. (James 1:19)
 - Believe the best until you have facts to prove otherwise. (1 Cor. 13:6, James 4:11-12)
 - Plan what to say. (Proverbs 14:22b, 2 Sam. 12 1-13)
3. If necessary, take one or two others along. (Matthew 18:16)
4. Seek reconciliation through repentance and forgiveness. (Luke 17:3-4)

BBCC Verses of the Week: “Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13
NIV

BBCC Devotional Guide for July 19-25, 2020

Sunday: *“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1 NIV)* The word for “restore” in this verse was used to describe mending a fishing net so that it could be used again for its intended purpose. In the same way, our goal in “restoring” someone is to help in the healing process so that a person can continue seeking God’s purpose for their life. Ask God to give you a humble heart that is concerned about restoring others.

Monday: *“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.” (Matthew 18:15 NIV)* An important reason Jesus tells us to speak to the person with whom we have conflict is that if we don’t talk to them, we will likely talk to someone else about what they have done. This is what often causes gossip and disunity in families and churches. Ask God to give you the desire and ability to follow the teaching of Jesus about conflict.

Tuesday: *“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:23-24 NIV)*. If you learn that someone has something against you, God wants you to take the initiative to seek peace with them, even if you believe that you have done nothing wrong. These verses also point out that our relationships with others affect our relationship with God as we come to worship Him. Ask God to help you take the initiative to be a peacemaker.

Wednesday: *“Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.” (Ephesians 4:15 NIV)* One of the most important ways to deal with conflict and seek reconciliation is to “speak the truth in love.” Ask God today to give you His love for people and a deep desire to humbly speak His truth to them.

Thursday: *“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.” (Matthew 18:16 NLT)* We are encouraged to speak directly to others who have offended us in the hope of reconciling the relationship. However, sometimes we need the help of others in our peacemaking efforts. Look for someone who is spiritually and emotionally mature and knows God’s Word well. Ask God to help you grow spiritually and know how to apply His principles in your life.

Friday: *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:32 NIV)* Jesus taught that we must forgive others from our hearts. This forgiveness is motivated by a realization that God is willing to forgive us and therefore we should be willing to forgive others. Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? Ask God today to give you the desire and ability to forgive.

Saturday: *“If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent’, you must forgive them.” (Luke 17:3-4 NIV)* Jesus taught that we should forgive others from our hearts regardless of whether they admit their wrongdoing or ask for forgiveness. Jesus modeled this when he prayed for His Father to forgive those who put him to death. Jesus also taught that relationships are restored when there is repentance and forgiveness that leads to reconciliation. Ask God to bring repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation to the relationships in your life that are broken.