

RETALIATION VS. RECONCILIATION

Based on the command of Christ #6 – “Be Reconciled”.

Matthew 28:19-20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 5:23-24

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,
24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Definition of Reconciliation:

Greek word: Diallasso = “to change thoroughly”
It involves restoring a relationship that was severed.

- Ketallasso = “to return to favor”
- Apokatallasso = “bring back to harmony”

I. The context of when Jesus was talking about reconciliation:

Matthew 5:21-22 (NKJV)

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’
22 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Ps. 14:1- The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

Psalm 107:17 - Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.

Proverbs 1:7 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

II. Reconciliation requires understanding of 3 factors:

1. Pride

Matthew 5:22 - And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Proverbs 18:21 (KJV) - Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Raca (Chaldean) = "O, empty-headed one" it is a statement of derision, reproach, and worthlessness.

Fool (Greek) = "moros" "Dull, stupid, blockhead"

Proverbs 13:10 "Strife and contention come only by pride!"

2. Anger

Ecclesiastes 7:9 - "Anger rests in the bosom of fools"

Proverbs 18:6 (NKJV) - A fool's lips enter into contention, And his mouth calls for blows.

Matthew 5:24 - leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Romans 12:19 (NKJV) - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

3. Cut people off in your spirit

Ephesians 4:22-32

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

1 Corinthians 12:21-23 (NKJV)

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

23 And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,

1 John 3:15 (NKJV) - Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

III. Principles of Reconciliation:

Proverbs 18:19 (NKJV) - A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

1. Storming

2. Surrounding

3. Searching

IV. What Christ Revealed to us about Reconciliation:

1. *He initiated reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2. *He humbled Himself.*

Philippians 2:5-8 (NKJV)

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

3. *He destroyed the walls of separation.*

Rom. 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. *He made restitution.*

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

5. *He anguished over reconciliation.*

Luke 22:44 (NKJV) - And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

6. He demonstrated unconditional love and complete forgiveness of our sins.

Ephesians 4:8 (NKJV) - Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

7. He strengthens fellowship through the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV) - till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Romans 12:18 (NKJV) - If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Phil. 4:13 - I can do all this through him who gives me strength.