



Week 5 – The Message of Reconciliation

1. Jesus himself is the ultimate peacemaker

- Col. 1:20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.
- John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

2. The message of reconciliation was central to Jesus' message

Matt. 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

- blessed = “happy already”
- peacemakers – not just peaceful – those who MAKE peace (Psalm 34:14 ‘seek peace and pursue it’)
- ‘sons of God’ Jewish commentary ‘He who practices peace is a child of the world to come’

3. Jesus taught his followers the 4 stage process of pursuing peace

Matt. 18:15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

A/ go to him...alone and show him his fault (v15)

- don't be an exploder, a somatizer (using your body), a self punisher or a passive-aggressive
- a true 'son of the Father' is not afraid to challenge and deal with the issue because they are secure in God's acceptance of them and also the power of the cross to bring reconciliation in any situation.
- text messages and email should never be used for challenging – reserve them for encouragement, organising or information.
- even phone calls are last resort
- don't go to someone else first unless it's for genuine prayer support or wisdom
- don't leave it too long
- go alone to preserve their dignity and your relationship

How to bring challenge in a Godly way

Avoid

Shouting and screaming

Never say 'always' and always avoid saying 'never'

Confusing their behaviour with their identity – ie 'you often leave a mess', 'you can sometimes be lazy' is better than 'you're a mess', 'you're lazy'

Comparing them with others 'you're just like your dad', 'why can't you be more like John'

Instead use...

The Communication Wheel



Example

Sense = *'Sometimes you go quiet and moody for hours or days at a time. For example last week you did it after smallgroup. When I asked you if something was wrong you said 'no' but I sensed there was'*

Thoughts = *'When you did that I thought to myself "I wonder if it's something I've done wrong". I was left guessing.*

Feelings = *'I felt rejected and shut out of your life'*

Desire = *'My desire is that we can share what's going on even when things are tough.'*

Action = *'If I've done something wrong I'd much rather you share it with me than go quiet. Was there something last week?'*

The aim is reconciliation (v16) 'you have gained your brother'

Particularly in the church, even when they have hurt you they are still your brother or sister in Christ.

Be open to learn yourself and hear their side – apologise for anything that is your fault.

How to be shown your 'fault'

Make a conscious choice to not be defensive and to allow God to teach you "whenever there is disagreement God is trying to speak to both of you"

'If he listens to you' – LISTEN!!!

Ask questions and repeat back to them what you think they have said

Apologise as soon as you can for whatever you can!

Don't pretend to agree if you don't. If you really can't get on the same page suggest moving it to stage B.

B/ Take 1 or 2 others with you (v16)

You need impartial help not armed militants

Look to learn yourself – examine your heart.

Gal. 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Don't fill in the circle by telling person B that person A has a problem with them

How to play the role of the third party

Do everything you can to stay impartial. Try not to bring your own baggage.

Help provide a safe environment for both but particularly the one who seems most defensive

Ask questions if you think there is miscommunication

Sum up your objective observations

C/ Take it to the church (v17)

Probably indicating church leadership

Smallgroup leader or coaches really enjoy this part of their job!

D/ Treat him as a pagan or tax collector (v18)

Not the same benefits of fellowship & community – they are outside of God's blessing

Our mission to them never ends.

Foundation of acceptance – we can know the blessing of God when we are genuinely seeking peace.