



Reconciliation: Doing Your Part to Be at Peace with Others

Romans 12:18 says, *“If it is possible, be at peace with everyone.”*

There are two parts to reconciliation:

1. Go to those you have hurt and make amends. .
2. Confront those that hurt or injure you or your relationship.

You confront by speaking the truth in love. Before you can speak your truth, you have to know your truth.

KNOW YOUR TRUTH

1. Let Go of Denial

Truth produces freedom (John 8:32). Denial is a very powerful psychological tool that keeps you from facing unpleasant things. It is protective at first but destructive if it continues too long.

Proverbs 22:3 says, *“A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”*

2. Let Go of Self-Doubt

Self-doubt is common in dysfunctional relationships. You will have to give yourself time to clarify your truth and then get strong enough to hold onto your truth even when others disagree.

SPEAK YOUR TRUTH

1. Be Willing to Confront

Speaking the truth requires confrontation. These Scriptures refer to the fact that confrontation is a loving thing to do:

“Better is open rebuke than hidden love” (Proverbs 27:5).

“Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses” (Proverbs 27:6).

“He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue”
(Proverbs 28:23).

Jesus confronted people in a very direct way. He told the Samaritan woman in John 4 that she was living in sin by living unmarried with a man. He treated her with dignity, but directly confronted her sin. He told the woman caught in adultery to “go and sin no more” (John 8:4-11). He always spoke the truth (John 1:17).

You have heard people say, “Be accepting, loving, and kind like Jesus.” They are inferring passivity and tolerance. In reality, Jesus was hard-hitting and cutting with his remarks, especially when he felt someone was manipulating him, tricking him, or against him. He was quick to point out hypocrisy and lies. Consider these remarks to the Pharisees: *“You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”* (Matthew 12:34) *“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites!”* (Matthew 23:29).

Paul also confronted the church frequently about the things they were doing wrong.

“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two to three witnesses.” (Matthew 18:15)

2. Confront by speaking the truth in love using these guidelines:

- Be Honest
- Be Respectful
- Be Humble
- Be Persistent
- Be Willing to Listen
- Be Silent
- Be Reasonable
- Be Slow to Speak
- Be willing to forgive

Application Questions

1. Do you know your truth?
2. Do you speak your truth?
3. What can you do to speak your truth in a more effective way?