

November 1 2009
Ephesians 4:2 NLT

How to Apply Reconciliation

What would our attitude be? Ephesians 4:2-3

I. What reconciliation it is not.

II. What reconciliation is.

- A. The whole concept and means of forgiving man's guilt was God's idea.
- B. Forgiveness precedes the repentance of the sinner.
- C. Our guilt could not be ignored or overlooked or rationalized away, it needed to be removed.
- D. It could be removed by the offended one (God) willingly removing the guilt of the offender.
- E. So the formerly guilty one is no longer guilty.

Forgiveness is a deliberate action of my will-out of dependence upon-Christ-in-me-removing from the offender his/her guilt toward me, giving this to God and considering the offender no longer guilty.

III. How it is to be done.

Mark 11:25

A. We prepare to forgive.

- 1. First, I clearly identify the guilt of the offender.
- 2. Then I clearly identify my hurt.

B. We actually forgive.

- 1. In prayer I begin by saying, "Lord as I think about _____, I see him/her as guilty." Then I tell the Lord I am taking the guilt off of that person and giving it to Him.
- 2. Next I describe to the Lord how what this person did has affected me.
- 3. Now I give the person to I God put him/her into His hands and let go. I pray that God will work in his/her life.
- 4. Finally, I deal with my response to what the person did.
I honestly acknowledge my part as a result of what was done to me.

Mathew 18:21-35

C. I seek forgiveness when I an the offender.

Mathew 5:23-24

Seeking forgiveness is the action of honestly "seeing" the guilt another is "holding against me" for my wrong action or attitude toward him/her, acknowledging it before him/her without excuse or explanation, and without projecting blame either toward the offended person or toward anyone else related to the incident-then humbly asking forgiveness from the person I have offended.

- 1. Clearly identify to yourself the offence you committed, write it out, including your attitude.
- 2. Make sure you have forgiven the other of any wrong toward you.
- 3. Think through the wording you will use as you ask for forgiveness.
- 4. Label your actions as "wrong", "I was wrong will you forgive me?"
- 5. Go into only as much detail as is necessary for the offended person understand what you are confessing.
- 6. Your confession should lead with purpose to: "I was wrong regarding _____ ." Will you forgive me?"
- 7. Do this verbally not in a text.
- 8. If forgiveness is refused, check your attitude and your motive.