

Reconciliation

Applying biblical principles to honor God
and improve your relationships

Outline

1. How does Scripture inform my understanding of **Reconciliation**?
2. How does Scripture inform my understanding of **Forgiveness**?
3. How do I apply this to real situations?

Definition

Reconciliation is the **restoration of fellowship** between two hostile parties that have been separated by a personal offense.

How does Scripture inform my
understanding of Reconciliation?

Matthew 5:23–24

Key Implication:

- ◆ I must make reconciliation the top priority of every one of my relationships.

Matthew 18:15–18

Key Implications:

- ◇ I do not wait for the offender to initiate reconciliation.
- ◇ I do not involve others unless it is absolutely necessary.

2 Corinthians 5:18–19

λογίζομαι (logizomai): to keep score, to charge against

Key Implication:

- ◆ Reconciliation requires that I forgive the offender and never keep score.

2 Corinthians 7:9–10

Key Implication:

- ◆ Reconciliation requires that I repent to those whom I have offended.

Romans 12:17–19

Key Implication:

- ◆ It is my obligation to do everything I can to be reconciled with everyone.

Recap of Implications

- ◇ I must make reconciliation the top priority of every one of my relationships (Matt 5:21–24).
- ◇ I do not wait for the offender to initiate reconciliation. (Matt 18:15–18; 2 Cor 15:18–19)
- ◇ I do not involve others unless it is absolutely necessary (Matt 18:15–18).
- ◇ Reconciliation requires that I **forgive** the offender and never keep score. (2 Cor 5:18–19)
- ◇ Reconciliation requires that I **repent** to those whom I have offended. (2 Cor 7:9–10)
- ◇ It is my obligation to do everything I can to be reconciled with everyone. (Rom 12:18)

The Formula of Reconciliation

Repentance + Forgiveness = Reconciliation

Definitions

Repentance

“Godly sorrow for one’s sin and a resolve to turn from it.”

(MacArthur & Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 936)

Forgiveness

The **irreversible determination** to not hold another’s sin against him/her, and the **permanent relinquishing** of all claims to personal vindication or justice.

How does Scripture inform my
understanding of Forgiveness?

Matthew 6:9–15

Key Implication:

- ◆ My fellowship with God is hindered when I have an unforgiving spirit.

Matthew 18:21–35

Key Implication:

◆ If I claim to be forgiven by God, I dare not be unforgiving.

Mark 11:25

Key Implication:

- ◇ I can forgive someone at any time—even when he/she is not present!

Matthew 18:21–22 & Luke 17:3–4

Key Implication:

- ◇ I must have a forgiving spirit, no matter how often someone sins against me.

Ephesians 4:31–32

Key Implication:

◇ I must forgive with God-like forgiveness.

How does God forgive us?

Isaiah 43:25 (also Jeremiah 31:34)

“...I will not remember your sins.”

How does God forgive us?

Psalm 103:8–14

- ◇ (v. 8): Compassionately and graciously
- ◇ (v. 10): He does not give us what our sins deserve
- ◇ (v. 12): He separates our sins as far as East is from West

How does God forgive us?

Micah 7:18–19

- ◇ (v. 18): His anger ends
- ◇ (v. 19): He casts our sin into the depths of the sea

The 3 commitments of a God-like forgiveness

1. I will not bring it up to **you**,
2. I will not bring it up to **others**,
3. I will not bring it up to **myself**.

Practical Matters

How do I apply this to real situations?

1. How should we talk about reconciliation?

“You need to apologize.”

“I’m sorry.”

“I accept your apology.”

“We need to reconcile.”

“I ask your forgiveness.”

“I forgive you.”

2. Do I have to confront someone over every sin?

1 Peter 4:8

“Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SINS.”

Was the offense petty or unintentional? (cf. 1 Cor 13:5, 7).

Was the sin only against me? (cf. Luke 23:34).

3. What if the other person isn't doing his part?

- ◇ Without both parties each doing their part (**repentance AND forgiveness**), there will be no reconciliation.
- ◇ But God commands *you* to do *your* part, regardless of the other person.
- ◇ If you do your part, you will have a right relationship with God and a clear conscience.

4. What about bitter or long-standing hostility?

- ◆ Each person tends to focus on the other person's responsibility while neglecting his own, resulting in a standoff.
- ◆ The only hope for the standoff to be broken is for you to do what God requires of you.
- ◆ Additionally, if this is long-standing, usually each side is *both* the offended *and* the offender at some point.

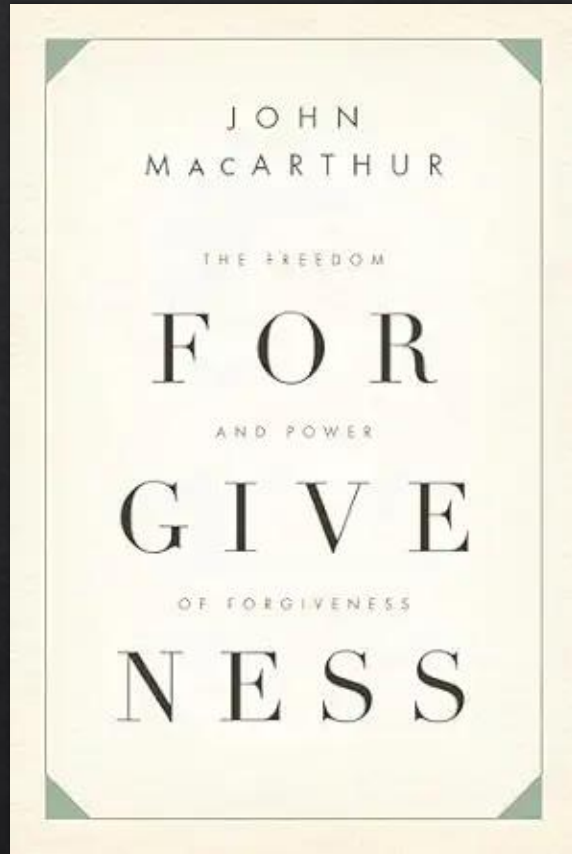
Key Takeaways

Repentance + Forgiveness = Reconciliation

Forgiveness means:

1. I will not bring it up to **you**,
2. I will not bring it up to **others**,
3. I will not bring it up to **myself**.

Suggested Reading



John MacArthur,
*The Freedom and Power
of Forgiveness*