

Peacemaking

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

Confession Brings Freedom

6.1 Key Principle: Confession brings freedom

6.2 The restoration (reconciliation) process involves 4 activities:

1) **Repentance**

2 Timothy 2:24-26 ²⁴The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

2) **Self-examination**

Psalm 139:23-24 ²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴And see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.

3) **Confession (Seven A’s of confession)** (if it contains an excuse, it’s not a confession):

1. **Address** everyone involved (All those whom you affected, and always confess to God).

Luke 19:8 ⁸Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”

2. **Avoid**: if, but, and maybe. (Do not try to excuse your wrongs)

Psalm 51, A contrite sinner’s prayer for pardon

3. **Admit** specifically. (Both attitudes and actions)

- Sinful words
 - Harsh, reckless or worthless words.
 - Grumbling and complaining.
 - Falsehood – any deception or twisting of the truth.
 - Gossip – revealing or discussing personal information about others with people who are not part of the problem or the solution.
 - Slander – speaking false and malicious words.
- Controlling others
 - Maximizing your own profit.
 - Manipulating.
 - Forcing.
- Breaking your word
- Failing to respect authority
- Serving sinful desires/idols
 - Inherently sinful cravings or attitudes, such as pride, lust, greed, or hatred.
 - Good things that we want too much, without which we feel we cannot be content, fulfilled, secure or happy.
- Sinful actions
 - Not treating others as you want to be treated.

Matthew 7:12 (the golden rule) ¹²In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

4. **Acknowledge** the hurt. (Express sincere sorrow for the way you affected others)

5. **Accept** the consequences. (Such as making restitution)

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Luke 15:19 ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.

6. **Alter** your behavior. (Change your attitudes and actions)

Ephesians 4:22-23 ²²That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

7. **Ask** for forgiveness. (and allow time)

Genesis 50:17 ¹⁷Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.” And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

4) **Personal change**

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹ Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1. **Pray Philippians 1:9-11** ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; ¹¹ having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.
2. **Delight yourself in the Lord Psalm 37:4-5** ⁴ Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart. ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.
3. **Study Romans 12:1-2** ¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
4. **Practice Philippians 4:9** ⁹ The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.