

Reconciliation - the restoration of friendly relations; harmonization; the action of making [my] view or belief compatible with [God's]

Diligent Work

Can we change our mental approach from deciding to do some work (applying effort), to a spiritual approach of sacrificing until a resolution?

Diligence requires focusing on:

- The desired future state
- Not the work/challenge/task at hand
- Certainly not the past conflicts

Isaiah 51:1

Will

...is not a selection of options. What I want = what I will do. My will is an exercise of what I truly want.

- Not an offer to accept or decline
- A declaration that we are either
 - in God's will / out of God's will
 - want what He wants / or refuse what He wants
 - obedient / rebellious

"But no matter what, your will must be mine." Luke 22:42 (TPT)

I must work diligently to resolve conflicts because it's God's will that I restore relationships

How must we accept God's will?

How did Jesus reject his own will and accept God's?

- **Submit**
- **Surrender**
- **Say yes (confeSS)**

7 steps to restoring family relationships (steps 1-2)

1. **Pray and talk to God before talking to the person**

- God is strong enough to handle my emotions

Why did I come to vent?

“To get it off my chest; to be relieved of my burden, so I’m free to be able to do what I want” (our will)

(God’s will) **To be unencumbered for service, to be:**

Effective - can’t be dragged/slowed down by mess

Not phony - things of the past inhibit genuine love

2. **Personally take the initiative**

- I must prioritize reconciliation...even above **worship**

*“So if you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and suddenly remember that a friend has something against you, **leave your sacrifice there beside the altar and go and apologize and be reconciled to him, and then come and offer your sacrifice to God.**” Matthew 5:23-24 (TLB)*

Why can’t I worship now and fix the relationship later

- Intimacy barrier
- We were created for intimacy (with God) = worship
- It’s the priority so that my time with God can be fruitful
- My worship is both **in response to** intimacy **and** my worship **builds** closer intimacy
- To be closer to God’s presence we must share his character
 - We need to be free from barriers to be **close with God**
 - We need to be like God (full of love) to be **close with God (in His presence)**

Anyone can say, “I love God.” yet have hatred toward another believer. This makes him a phony, because if you don’t love a brother or sister, whom you can see, how can you truly love God, whom you can’t see? For he has given us this command: whoever loves God must also demonstrate love to others. 1 John 4:20-21 (TPT)