**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)

## **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

## **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)*