

FAMILY LIFE SERIES: Restoring Family Relationships!

 Christian Life Center Worldwide

Senior Pastor Karl Miller, Jr.

Strengthening resolve to trust God and empowering prosperous living built on intimate relationship with God

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

God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. 2 Corinthians 5:18 (GW)

Choosing whom to love is not my prerogative

Mark 12:31(MSG)

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

Ephesians 4:31-32 (TPT)

7 steps to restoring family relationships (steps 4 & 5)

4. Profess my role or part in the conflict

- I show I'm serious about restoring relationships, by **first** confessing my share in the conflict

Confess and acknowledge how you have offended one another and then pray for one another to be instantly healed. James 5:16 (TPT)

- If we remain open and connected, we can be each other's "blind-spot detection"
 - Others can highlight what I can't see
 - Holy Spirit will guide me to the truth

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“Why is it that you see the dust in your brother’s or sister’s eye, but you can’t see what is in your own eye? Don’t ignore the wooden plank in your eye, while you criticize the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eyelashes. That type of criticism and judgment is a sham! Remove the plank from your own eye, and then perhaps you will be able to see clearly how to help your brother flush out his sawdust.” Matthew 7:3-5 (VOICE)

“When you begin by humbly admitting your mistakes, it defuses the other person’s anger and it disarms their attack because they were probably expecting you to be defensive. Do not make excuses or shift the blame; just honestly own up to any part that you have played in the conflict. Accept responsibility for your mistakes and ask for forgiveness.”

- In acknowledging our role, we not only admit our fault, but also own our responsibility to pursue necessary change

5. Pursue the problem, and not the person

The problem will not be fixed, if the preoccupation is affixing blame

- Blame is irrelevant (whose fault doesn’t determine the solution)
- Blame is a distraction (Reconciliation’s intent is to **agree**)

- When I’m tempted to hurt you with my words

Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Ephesians 4:29 (MSG)

- I won’t ignore or disregard the nudging of Holy Spirit
Don’t grieve God. Don’t break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don’t take such a gift for granted. Ephesians 4:30 (MSG)

- I must choose the right path

Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Ephesians 4:31 (MSG)

Say only what helps, each word a gift. Ephesians 4:29 (MSG)

Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32 (MSG)