PREPPED FOR CHANGE ▬► I WILL TRUST YOU ▬►IN THE PURSUIT OF CHANGE▬►JESUS I GOT IT▬►RESTORING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS▬►7 STEPS

*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**

*Acknowledge how you have offended one another* *James 5:16 (TPT)*

Acknowledge how someone else may hold you to account for an offense (even if you are not responsible).  Sometimes offense isn’t actually offered **but may be felt regardless!**

* My tendency is to allow “What I feel / know I did wrong” to define my role or part
  + When I do this, I’m the one who determines when I satisfy what I feel I’m responsible; or I determine I have nothing more [*I want*] to give
* Can I choose to allow the other persons to define my role based on how they’ve been impacted
  + What debt do they hold on my account, from their perspective
  + When I do this, the only thing that satisfies is the other person feeling whole and having peace

Extreme examples

* + John kicked an alcohol addiction that had repeatedly hurt his family, but his son, Ken, holds him responsible for more than just what John knows he did wrong. Ken has never forgiven his father for missing his heart-breaking football championship loss.
  + Terry knows she isn’t responsible for any of Monica’s pain, but may have lost her as a friend since Monica is pointing the finger at her
* Both John and Terry could make amends for what they know they did wrong (a lot for John, and for Terry, virtually nothing) yet at the end of the day
  + Neither relationship would be restored
  + Unresolved conflict would still be present
* They both must own their role in the conflict, and acknowledge the role the other person holds them **accountable** for in the conflict.
  + Discard the idea: “I can’t fix what I don’t know I’ve done”
  + Discard the idea: “I can’t settle what I don’t owe “
* Although these may not actually be things I’ve done or owe, because they are charging the wrong or hurt to my account, I am the only one who can pay the debt and resolve the offense

*Later Peter approached Jesus and said, “How many times do I have to forgive my fellow believer who keeps offending me? Seven times?” Jesus answered, “Not seven times, Peter, but seventy times seven times…” Matthew 18:21-35 (TPT)*

* The servant’s story not only teaches a lesson in spreading mercy, but also shows a king making a sacrifice to clear what someone else owes
* God does expect us to extend the compassion and mercy extended to us
* In our maturity, though, we must also become the instigators of resolution, (even when it’s not our fault) in order to start the healing process.

## **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**)
* Attack is inevitable because conflict produces:
  + anger
  + pent up energy
  + me in my feelings
* So, relentlessly pursue (attack) a solution, not your family (the person)

“The person isn’t the source of the problem, and is at best only the vehicle.“

“Why attack the person if that’s not with whom you wrestle?”

*Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage. Because of this, you must wear all the armor that God provides so you’re protected as you confront the slanderer, for you are destined for all things and will rise victorious.  Ephesians 6:12-13 (TPT)*