



RESOLVING CONFLICT



Practical Solutions to Real Peace & Harmony

The Right Response

Ephesians 4:32;

Matthew 6:12, 14-15; 5:23-24; 18:23-35;

1 Corinthians 13:5; Colossians 3:13

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

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Bottom Line: Only forgiven people can really forgive.

Review:

Week 1 – The Right Priority

Don't gunnysack a relationship. Reconcile quickly.
Overlook or reconcile.

Week 2 – The Right Focus

Success in conflict is not getting the right result but reflecting the right person. Reflect God.

Week 3 – The Right Heart

The first step in any conflict is to thoroughly examine your heart.

Week 4 – The Right Approach

Confession brings freedom. Proverbs 28:13, "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Today – The Right Response

Introduction:

This topic is one of the most misunderstood things in life. Even mature Christians with advanced degrees don't fully understand this topic. If you

ask 10 people about today's subject, you will likely get 10 different answers. Today, as a way of introducing this topic ...what do you do when someone seriously sins against you?

God provides a solution for us to rise above and escape the wrongs done to us. His solution is FORGIVENESS.

The only one hurt by unforgiveness is you.

I want to address some common misconceptions about forgiveness.

Forgiveness is **not** ...

**A Feeling
Forgetting
Excusing**

Sin creates a debt that must be paid.

Matthew 6:12, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

1 Peter 2:24, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

Are you going to take payments on the debt that's owed you?

OR Will you imitate Christ and make payments on this debt?

Forgiveness is a decision modeled after God's forgiveness.

Colossians 3:13, "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

What exactly is forgiveness? It's a promise. In fact, it's four promises. (See Slippery Slope Card)

1. I will not dwell on this incident (2 Corinthians 10:5).
2. I will not bring this incident up and use it against you (Hebrews 8:12).

3. I will not talk to others about this incident (Matthew 7:12).
4. I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship (Luke 15:11-32).

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ **Memorize: Ephesians 4:32**
- ☐ **Meditate on God's Forgiveness**
- ☐ **Make a List of People You Need to Forgive**
- ☐ **Contact Each, Forgive Them, and Share the Four Promises**