

# Reconciliation

When relationships are broken, re-establishing peace and justice can be understandably difficult. And yet, this is the work to which God calls us. First, God reconciled us to himself, then he gave us the message of reconciliation to share with the world. Studying Scripture helps us better understand the spiritual discipline of reconciliation and how our reconciliation with God impacts our ability to be peacemakers. In this episode, we discover our responsibility to God, to each other, and to the world, and what exactly Jesus Christ calls us to do.

**AWARENESS** Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- When you hear the word "reconciliation," what comes to mind first? A personal relationship, a political situation, or something else?
- What does it feel like to be in an unresolved conflict with someone? What makes reconciling that relationship possible? What makes it more difficult, or even feel impossible?



**LISTEN TO THE EPISODE:** [Reconciliation](#)

**READ** [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#), [Matthew 5:9, 23-26](#), [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

**REFLECTION** After listening, consider the following questions:

- In the first segment, hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee described reconciliation as having a "vertical" dimension (between God and us) and a "horizontal" one (between people). How does understanding God's costly act of reconciling us to himself through Christ shape the way you think about reconciling with others?
- In segment 2, Scott and Dave discussed what it takes to be a peacemaker. They mentioned courage, wisdom, and a genuine love of peace. They noted that peacemakers often "get it from both sides." When has pursuing peace cost you something? What held you back or motivated you to press on?
- The hosts connected peace to the Hebrew concept of shalom, the "mutual webbing together of all creatures and people into mutually edifying relationships." How does this fuller picture of shalom expand your understanding of what reconciliation is meant to accomplish, beyond simply ending a conflict?
- In the third segment, Dave and Scott mentioned that Jesus gave two instructions in [Matthew 5](#) and [Matthew 18](#): whether you are the offender or the offended, *you* go. Dave described this as the hardest part of the discipline because of pride and stubbornness. What are some practical first steps one could take toward overcoming human pride and stubbornness and obey Jesus' command to be the one to "go"?

## RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Colossians 1:19–20](#), [Romans 5:10–11](#), [Ephesians 2:14–18](#)

## CONCLUSION

Reconciliation is the spiritual discipline of actively pursuing restored relationships, first receiving the peace God has made with us through Christ, and then carrying that same initiative into our relationships with others. Because God reconciled us to himself at great cost while we were still his enemies, we are both empowered and called to do the hard, courageous work of peacemaking in our own lives. This discipline matters because broken relationships wound us, divide communities, and obscure the gospel, while restored relationships bear witness to the transforming power of Christ.

- Take a few minutes now to close this time of reflection in prayer using the prompts below. **Gratitude:** Thank God for taking the initiative to reconcile us to himself through Christ, at great cost, when we were still his enemies.
- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal any broken relationships you have been avoiding, and confess the pride or fear that has kept you from taking the first step. (You might even write down a name or a practical next step before you close, so that this discipline moves from reflection into action.)
- **Petition:** Pray for the courage, wisdom, and love of peace needed to pursue reconciliation in your personal relationships, your church, and the wider world.
- **Commitment:** Close by asking the Holy Spirit to help you live as a true ambassador of reconciliation this week, reflecting the God who first reconciled you.

---

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/reconciliation>

*Printed on June 24, 2026*