

Yes, But How Do I Reconcile?

READY

If you found that you had a sliver in your eye, how would you want it removed?

SET & GO **Primary Texts:** Matt. 5:23-24; 7:1-5; 18:15; Luke 17:3-4

Set 1 *Read Matthew 5:23-24, 7:1-5, and Luke 17:3-4 aloud.* Answer the following questions:

In Matt. 5:23-24, what is happening when “you” remember that someone has something against you?

What does Jesus say “you” must then do?

According to Matt. 7:3-5, what must you do before you correct your brother?

According to Luke 17:4, how often should you forgive your brother (cf. Matt. 18:21-22)?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss:* In Matt. 5:23-24, Jesus teaches that reconciliation is so important that you should even break off acts of worship in order to pursue peace with someone whom you know to have something against you. Note that Jesus commands **you** to initiate the reconciliation, and He gives no indication whether or not the feeling of offense is justified. You are obligated to go and reconcile regardless.

Go 2a You may be tempted to think that if the other person has a problem, he should come to you. How would Jesus respond to this kind of thinking?

Go 2b What should your attitude be toward the offended person when you go?

Go 2c What makes obedience to this command of Jesus so hard to practice?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss:* Matt. 7:1-5 teaches that you are not to act as judge either by imposing your standards or by exacting your punishment. In either case, you act like God. When real sin has occurred, especially when it creates relational fracture, you are to correct; but you must first honestly deal with your own sin, and this includes confession. You must also exercise great care when correcting, like you would if removing a small sliver from your friend’s eye.

Go 3a In what ways are you tempted to impose your personal standards upon others? Why will this tend to break relationships?

Go 3b How will it help your efforts to reconcile if you honestly confess your sin first? How will it change your attitude if you were to sincerely see your sin as a ‘log’ and theirs as a ‘speck’?

Go 3c Confession **must** include asking for forgiveness, not just saying “I’m sorry.” What’s the difference, and why is this so important for true reconciliation?

Set 4 *Briefly discuss:* Luke 17:3-4 tells you what you are to do when someone sins against you. Minor offenses often happen that your love should cover, but if the sin disturbs your relationship in any way, you **must** go. Your purpose in going must be to “win your brother,” not for you to win (Matt. 18:15). The correction you bring should deal with biblically sinful behavior, not petty disagreement or personal preference. If your brother repents, you **must** forgive, which means you must promise to let it go.

Go 4a Jesus commands you to go directly to the person who has sinned against you. Why is this so critical for true reconciliation?

Go 4b Describe how the conversations might differ if you go to “win your brother” versus going to win?

Go 4c You are commanded to keep forgiving your repenting brother even though he keeps doing the same things. What makes this difficult to do? How does this reflect Jesus’ actions toward you?

FINISH

Are you more inclined to go speak directly to people who have offended you or to speak to others about them?

Are you willing to commit to obedience in this area by ceasing to talk *about* others instead of *to* them?

Declaring and Displaying the Gospel Together

Yes, But How do I Reconcile?

Matthew 5:23-24; 7:1-5; Luke 17:3-4

If you understand the gospel, you will take the biblical steps necessary to reconcile your relationships.

1. When is reconciliation needed?

a. When someone has something against you References:
How do you know someone has something against you?

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b. When you have something against someone References:

When is reconciliation NOT needed?

When MUST you go?

2. What biblical actions must you take to reconcile? References:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.

What are 3 ways to think about forgiveness?

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What are the 7 A's of confession

A _____, A _____, A _____, A _____, A _____, A _____, A _____

3. What if the other person won't reconcile?

What must happen for reconciliation to take place?

What has God given you to help heal relationships?

What two things should you keep in mind?

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