

## Reconcile with One Another

*Ephesians 2:11-22*

### Introduction

While believers in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ understand the need for reconciliation with God, many believers struggle with the importance of seeking and pursuing reconciliation with one another. Reconciliation requires a willingness to forgive, but it also includes a commitment to move forward in restoring a broken relationship. Forgiveness is letting go of the past and the weight of resentment against the person who harmed you, including the pleasure of revenge and retribution. Reconciliation picks up where forgiveness leaves off, and involves a commitment to the future and a mutual commitment to move the relationship forward based on biblical truth. God is calling believers to move beyond forgiveness to reconciliation with one another in light of His glorious saving work in our lives. When the power of the gospel is realized we will not only celebrate our reconciliation with God, but we will also pursue and experience reconciliation with one another.

### Getting Started

We all were without hope, excluded, and separated from God at some point in our lives and in need of reconciliation with God. *When and how did you come to faith in Christ? Share your salvation experience with your group.*

### Let's Get Personal

1. Through the work of the cross and Jesus' sacrifice we can move beyond the normal lines that divide us to find commonality in Christ. However, many Christians still struggle with the classifications that typically divide us along racial, socio-economic, and traditional lines. *In your group, discuss the specific ways that people in the world and in the church still highlight classifications based on the world's standards. How have these divisive lines affected you personally?*
2. Sometimes our struggles with reconciliation move beyond human classifications and into areas of personal preference or personality differences. *Do you have a relationship that is strained and in need of reconciliation? Share this with your group.*
3. Our reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ allows us the privilege of experiencing life-giving relationships with one another in the church. While we cannot control the actions of others, we are responsible for our own actions. *How can you be a minister of reconciliation in a current relationship that needs healing and reconciliation?*

### Take the Next Step

Reconciliation is not work for the faint of heart! While forgiveness is the starting point, the work of reconciliation includes 1) taking responsibility for our actions, 2) putting ourselves in the other person's place, and 3) making no excuses for hurting others. *Think about the areas that have been discussed during your group time. Specifically identify the areas of "work" that relate to your situation and share with your group what steps you intend to take this week to seek reconciliation.*

### Renew Your Mind

*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

*2 Corinthians 5:18-19*

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