

## ***Relationships: Restoring Relationships for Him***

**Matthew 5:23-24**

*February 24, 2013*

### **Why do you need to restore relationships?**

#### **1) God reconciled the world to Himself as our pattern 2 Cor. 5:18-19**

- Rom. 5:10-11
- Forgiveness is God's nature Neh. 9:16-17
- When God forgives, it's complete Ps. 103:10-12; Is. 38:17; Heb. 10:14-18
- God forgives me when I was His enemy Rom. 5:8-10
- God's infinite forgiveness costs me nothing 2 Cor. 5:21

#### **2) Restoring relationships is more important than worship Matt. 5:23-24**

- Eph. 4:31-32
- Forgive *-nasah* to lift up; *salah*- ready to forgive; *aphiemi* - send away.
- God wants you to forgive as He does Matt. 18:21-35
  - Forgiveness is designed for all people Matt. 18:1-5
  - Forgiveness means taking sin seriously Matt. 18:6-9
  - Forgiveness in the kingdom means going after the lost Matt. 18:10-14
  - Forgiveness must be processed orderly in mercy Matt. 18:15-21; 22-35

#### **3) Restoring relationships is my responsibility to Him Luke 17:1-10**

### ***Restore relationships for Jesus' sake, because He has restored you!***

- Forgiveness is a vertical choice Mark 11:25, so that you can love.
  - Forgiveness starts vertically, the horizontal depends upon the offender accepting responsibility and asking for forgiveness Luke 17:1-4.
  - Forgiveness is not forgetting Jer. 31:34.
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- How do I know when I've forgiven? Some say, "I love God," I just can't deal with a few of His people. What about 1 John 4:20-21?
  - When you forgive, do not demand restitution (sometimes it cannot be retrieved or repaid), but instead you demonstrate mercy and love toward him with a goal of reconciliation. Restitution is part of the process of restoration and should lovingly be pointed out to the offender.

## **Message Based Discussion Questions**

1) What bothers you most about religious fanatics?

### **Digging Deeper:**

2) How many steps does Jesus give in Matthew 18 for restoration?  
\_\_\_\_\_ How would you describe the restoration process to a child? What are danger points in the process?

3) What are at least five descriptions of love in 1 Cor. 13.? \_\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_.

How does 1 Corinthians 13 influence the practical aspect of forgiveness?

4) To whom are you to offer your body a living sacrifice in Romans 12:1? \_\_\_\_\_ What are other principles regarding forgiveness that we can learn from Romans 12?

### **Implementing the message to your life:**

5) In what relationship situations is restoration difficult? What do you do? What counsel would you give another on what to do?

6) How do you know when you are restoring for Jesus sake?