

Celebrating “New Life” in Jesus
Our Commitment to Restoration

II Corinthians 5:17-21

The “Church” in God’s Eyes

The Church is a “living organism,” the “Body of Christ” living in the world to display the values of the Kingdom Jesus will ultimately establish on earth.

Jesus’ Teachings for the Family of God

1. Loving the brethren as Jesus loved them. (John 13:33-35; 15:12-17)
2. Serving the brethren as Jesus Did. (John 13:12-17; Mat. 16:24-25)
3. Treasuring “God’s children” as Jesus did. (Mat. 18:1-10; Mark 9:35-37; Luke 9:46-47)
4. Pursuing “Child of God” when they are in trouble. (Mat. 18:11-14)
5. Helping “God’s Children” break destructive habits. (Mat. 18:15-20)
6. Forgiving “God’s Children” 70 x 7 (Mat. 18:21-22; 6:14; 26:28)
7. Last Week: Forgiveness is release of a debt but not restoration of a relationship. (Matthew 18:21-35)

Restoration of a Relationship

1. **Forgiveness is a gift we can give a person that is undeserved and prayerfully life-changing.**

“Forgiveness” reflects our heart to trust God and show grace.

”But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven” **Matthew 5:44-45; Romans 12:17-21**

2. **Forgiving unconditionally is different than the forgiveness based upon ownership and desire for reconciliation.**

Acts 2:38 *“Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

“**metanoia**” involves change of mind, turned from a way of thinking, display of honesty and ownership...
24x in the gospels

Reconciliation with God: *“and He said to them, “So it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **Luke 24:46-47***

Our Reconciliation with Brethren: *“If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive Him, and if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying “I repent, forgive him.” **Luke 17:3***

3. Our business in life as Christians is Reconciliation.

II Corinthians 5:17-21 Our brother has reconciled with God
We recognize change, live with vision
We recognize our own inadequacies

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- **I will seek a posture of grace in all circumstances because I know my sins and God’s grace in my life.**
- **I know wisdom dictates that reconciliation requires ownership and work to rebuild trust.**

Reconciliation is more important than worship.

Matthew 5:23-25

Galatians 6:1-3

Life Groups (2 more weeks)

Sunday, 5 pm, Chapel

Also: Tuesdays, 10 am, Wednesdays, 7 pm, Fridays, 7 pm