

*Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus*  
**God's Commitment to Reconciliation**

II Corinthians 5:17-21

**The "Church" in God's Eyes**

*The Church is a "living organism," made up of "children of God" who are "born of God's Spirit" and committed to becoming members of the Family of God doing the Work of God in the world.*

**Jesus' Priorities 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 did Jesus. (John 13:12-17; Mat. 16:24-25)
3. Treasuring them as "God's children." (Mt. 18:1-10; Mk 9:35-37; Lk 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)

*Forgiveness is release of a debt but does not establish a relationship. (Matthew 18:21-35). It is a gift that could be life-changing in another person's life. (Mat. 5:44-45). It is trusting God to manage the consequences of another person's life choices (Rom. 12:17-21).*

**Forgiveness and Reconciliation: The Story of Easter**

1. **God's heart for reconciliation with people is the story of scripture since the beginning of time.**

**Genesis 1** God created everything "good." (4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)

**Genesis 2** God entrusted everything good to human beings He created to be like Him in the management of creation.

**Genesis 3** People entered into relationship with evil and "death" was introduced as destroying the life God created.

***God's heart and relationship with people, created to be like Him, was broken as a result of evil choices and behavior.***

2. **God is represented as grieving what happened to people and how to manage the damage caused by evil.**

**Genesis 6:5-6**

**Genesis 6:20-22**

**Psalm 14:1-3**

***God grieves the loss of goodness in the people He loves!***

3. **God developed a plan of attack for reconciliation of His relationship with the people He loves.**

**Genesis 12:1-3** The choice a people through whom He could restore the blessings He intended for creation.

**Isaiah 11:1-10** A descendant of Abraham who will manage the restoration of creation and healing of people.

**Lessons Learned from God about Reconciliation**

- **Broken relationships always reflect the degree to which people are influenced by a disposition that is broken.**
- **Reconciliation can be complicated and requires a plan of attack involving two people committed to the process.**
- **There are healthy ingredients of true "confession" and "repentance."**

Expressing sincere regret: Saying I am sorry is not enough.

Accepting Responsibility: "I was wrong"

Making restitution: "How can I make it right?"

Genuinely Repenting: "I want to change"

Requesting Forgiveness: "Can you find it in your heart?"

**When Sorry Isn't Enough** by Chapman and Thomas