



The Reason For RECONCILIATION

Ephesians 2:14-16



“No sin more commonly invades the church than *eris*; none is more destructive of Christian fellowship; but *eris* cannot even gain an entry to the church, if Christ be supreme there.”

-William Barclay, *Flesh & Spirit*, 44



Biblical Principles of Reconciliation

- ▶ Realize Urgency of Being Reconciled
- ▶ Accept Obligation & Possibility of Rec.

(Matthew 5:23-24) So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



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Biblical Principles of Reconciliation

- ▶ Realize Urgency of Being Reconciled
- ▶ Accept Obligation & Possibility of Rec.
- ▶ We Can't Always Have Our Way (Eph. 4:1-3)
- ▶ Make Every Effort to Work Things Out

- ▶ **Forgive**

(Matthew 5:44)
But I say to you,
Love your
enemies and
pray for those
who persecute
you,

- ▶ **Pray**

(Colossians 3:13) Bearing
with one another and, if
one has a complaint against
another, forgiving each
other; as the Lord has
forgiven you, so you also
must forgive.

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Bible Examples of Conflict

▶ Paul & Barnabas - Acts 15:36-40

- In “Sharp” Disagreements, Still Maintain Christ-like Relationships & Attitudes

(2 Timothy 4:11) Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

- Time is a Great Healer

(Colossians 4:10) Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),

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Bible Examples of Conflict

▶ **Euodia & Syntyche** - Philippians 4:2-3

- The Goal is to **“Agree in the Lord”**
- We May Need a **3rd Party** to Help Us Reconcile

(Philippians 4:2-3) I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

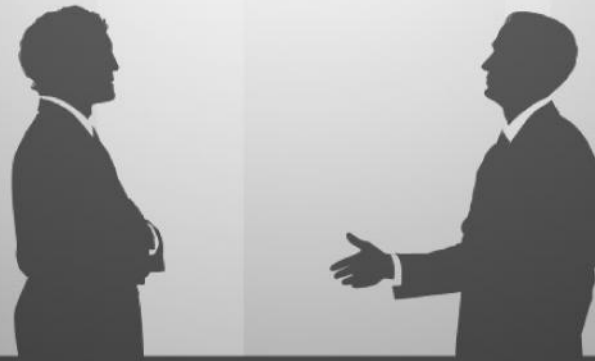
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Bible Examples of Conflict

▶ David & Saul

- David “**tried**”; Saul didn’t budge an inch
- David was never embittered against Saul (2 Samuel Ch. 1)

(Romans 12:18) If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.



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Some Things Depend On Us

▶ A Gracious Attitude - Philippians 1:15-19

▶ Always be Humble

▶ Always Listen

▶ Always Control Our Spirit & Anger

(James 1:20) For the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

(Philippians 2:3-4) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

“Whenever in a church Jesus Christ is dethroned from the central place, all personal relationships go wrong.”

-William Barclay, *Flesh & Spirit*, 44

