



Week of September 13

Day 3: Right Relationships and Biblical Reconciliation

Read through the following Scriptures: Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 6:14-15, John 13:34-35, John 17:20-22, Ephesians 5:25-26, Ephesians 6:4, Ephesians 5:22, Ephesians 6:1-2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.

With God, everything is about relationship. At its heart, spirituality is about loving God and one another (Matthew 22:37-39, 5:23-24, 6:14-15). Virtually nothing grieves God's Spirit or blocks prayers like ignoring broken or damaged relationships. For this reason, it is vital that believers continually confess and forsake all relationship sins. Take your time and be very thorough. After each of the following questions, pause and allow God to speak.

Questions for reflection:

- Is there anyone (past or present) that I have offended but have not asked forgiveness? ____
- Have I failed to seek full reconciliation and make restitution to anyone I have offended or in some way harmed? ____
- Do I harbor the slightest unforgiveness and anger toward anyone? ____
- Do I privately rehearse angry things I would like to say to certain people? ____
- Have I in any way cooled off spiritually because of disappointments with God or people? ____
- As a father, am I leading and training my family spiritually? ____
- As a mother, am I sacrificially and joyfully serving my family and guiding them spiritually? ____
- Have I in any way failed to honor, respect or give adequate attention and time to my parents? ____
- Have I spoken or e-mailed negatively about anyone? ____
- Have I publicly criticized or maligned a fellow believer without first talking to them about the issue? ____
- Have I forwarded items when I was not certain of their source? ____
- Am I involved in any form of gossip or negative, critical speech? ____
- Do I tend to hurt and offend people with my words or e-mails? ____
- Is there any pattern of failing to respect and support my spiritual leaders? ____

All sins of relationships are serious with God. Confession must be specific and repentance complete. Ask God for clear revelation of specific steps you may need to take. Resolve to be utterly honest with yourself and resist the human tendency to rationalize sin.

For prayer and repentance, determine now to put off sins of relationship and let Jesus be Lord of all.

Are there certain people from whom I need to ask forgiveness? ____

Do I need to take specific steps of restitution? ____ (Restitution means repaying something I have taken or publicly seeking to restore a reputation I have damaged.)

Is there some offense or bitterness I need to finally release? ____

Be completely honest with God and yourself. If people are coming to mind with whom you need to make a contact for reconciliation, that is likely God speaking to your heart. Take time to write out specific steps for obeying God in relationships.

Pause for prayer and believe Christ to fill you with His love and power. Claim His full life and victory to operate in you. Ask in faith for the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit.