

SUMMER OF LOVE

Week 11
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

The church is the BRIDE of Christ: **HE takes time for us. He speaks what He means** - He is not vague and doesn't beat around the bush. **He knows our perceptions cloud the truth**, which is why He LEADS us into all truth. **BUT HE DOES LISTEN**, any and every time we speak. **And His Spirit feeds back our perceptions verses His reality.**

DISCUSSION

Define the word "reconciliation".

EXPLANATION

Read Roman 5:6-8

What does it mean, "while we were still sinners?"

If this is true for how God seeks us, why is it so hard for us to offer it to other people?

Why is it even harder to offer it to our spouses?

How is this a demonstration of love?

APPLICATION

Is how you treat your spouse how you hope your kids would grow up to treat their spouses?

-If you are not married, take these questions for how you treat your friends.

How often do you blame other people for your own reactions to situations?

What are the best and worst you have reacted to situations?

-What made the difference?

MISSION

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

What does the message of reconciliation look like?

How do you display it?

How often do you think of yourself as God's ambassador?

Why is it easier for us to accept that God died for us then for us to lay our pride and serve others?



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FIGHTING &

RESTORATION PART 2 (5:8-16)

Week 11 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES

1 Corinthians 9:22-23

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Titus 2:15

Song of Solomon 5:8-16

Ephesians 5:1

Mark 9:35



FIGHTING & RESTORATION PART 2 (5:8-16)

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 *"I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."*

Reconciliation is a change of relationship between God and man based on the changed status of man through the redemptive work of Christ. Three aspects of this change in the New Testament are:

1. A reconciliation of *persons* between whom there has existed a state of enmity; God establishes in Christ's redemptive work the basis of this changed relationship of persons (Rom 5:10; 2 Cor 5:19). God is never said to be reconciled to man, but man to God, since it is man's sinfulness that creates the enmity (Rom 8:7; Col 1:21) and precipitates God's wrath (Eph 2:3, 5).
2. A reconciliation of *condition* so that all basis of the enmity relationship is removed and a complete basis of fellowship is established (2 Cor 5:18-20; Eph 2:16).
3. A reconciliation arising out of the change in man *induced by the action of God*. Man is not reconciled merely because his relationship has changed, but because God has changed him through Christ so that he can be reconciled (Rom 5:11; 11:15; 2 Cor 5:18; Eph 2:5).

Reconciliation arises out of God, through Christ, to man, so that not only may the barriers to fellowship existing in sinful people be removed, but the positive basis for fellowship may be established through the righteousness of Christ imputed to man.

Also, even though the sufficient ground of reconciliation is established in the completed redemptive work of Christ, reconciliation is the basis on which our continued fellowship is established (Rom 5:10).

Four things about resolving conflict:

- **We need a servant understanding to resolve conflict.** To learn how to be givers and not takers in a relationship.
- **We need to understand that NO circumstance in our lives makes us an exception to what God calls us to be in scripture.**
- **We have to see that God, marriage, sex, and children are all connected.**
- **We have to be a people that seek God's heart, not ask where the line is on sin.**

We must move from selfish to service because selfish is sin.

Biblically marriage is covenant and consummation

- **Covenant** - Vows and bidding yourselves one to another
- **Consummation** - marital intimacy to consummate your life together.

A clear message will come out of you being aware of what you are thinking AND feeling - **5 STEPS FOR THIS:**

1. **Take time for each other** - Set aside regular time for each other.
2. **Speak what you mean** - Communication comes from CLEARLY expressing your thoughts/feeling to each other.
3. **Understand your spouse's perception of life is DIFFERENT than yours** - You will never see everything the same way.
4. **Listen** - Pay attention to the total message being sent.
5. **Feedback what they are saying** - Let them know WHAT YOU HEARD.

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Perfect God, perfect communicator...yet came as a servant to pay the penalty for our sin/selfishness. He dies, rises from the grave 3 days later to offer us new life; we must trust Christ or we will forever be more selfish than humble.