

A watercolor illustration of winter foliage and decorations. The background is a soft, light pink and blue wash. In the foreground, there are various elements: green pine branches, blue and pink flowers, red berries, and a blue Christmas ornament with a white string. The overall style is soft and artistic.

Words for the  
**New Year**

Rest, Reengage, Reconcile

**What does it mean to reconcile?**

# What does it mean to reconcile?

To restore friendly relations between; to cause to coexist in harmony

- *re-* = back again

- *concile* = bring together

# What does it mean to reconcile?

- Reconciliation is an image of the gospel.
  - Rom. 5:10-11, Col. 1:19-20, 2Cor. 5:17-20

# What does it mean to reconcile?

- Reconciliation is a fruit of the gospel.
  - Mal. 4:6, Luke 1:17, Eph. 2:13-15

# What does it mean to reconcile?

- Forgiveness (the first step towards reconciliation) is a condition of the gospel.
  - Matt. 6:12, 14-15

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WATCHMAN  
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Sit, Walk, Stand





# What motivates our reconciliation?

- Our call and motivation is to love others as Christ loved us.
  - Eph. 5:1-2, 1John 4:19, 1John 2:5-6, Luke 23:34

# What are the consequences of our unforgiveness or our refusal to act as Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation?

- A psychological answer (A. Rowett, LMHC)
- A biblical answer

# The Consequences of Unforgiveness

- Loss of a walk with God/no longer abiding
  - 1John 4:20-21
- Loss of health and vitality
  - Ps. 32:1-5, 1Cor. 11:27-30

# The Consequences of Unforgiveness

- Loss of joy
  - Heb. 12:14-15, Prov. 15:17
- Loss of our distinctiveness as the being-transformed people of God
  - Matt. 5:44-48

# What Reconciliation Does Not Mean

- Putting yourself in a dangerous situation
- An inability to practice healthy, life-giving boundaries
- While reconciliation requires two to tango, forgiveness and release do not.

# A Primer on Forgiveness

- The crisis of forgiveness begins with a decision, an act of will. It is a unilateral choice to release a person from the obligation or debt that resulted when he or she injured you.

# A Primer on Forgiveness

- The process of forgiveness is partnering with the work of God's Spirit in your life as he replaces those negative, unforgiving emotions with positive, other-oriented, Christ-reflecting emotions, such as empathy, sympathy, compassion, and even love.

**How do we reconcile with one another?**



## Matthew 5:22

22 But I say to you that everyone being angry with his brother will be liable to judgment. Whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council, and whoever says, "You fool!" will be liable to the hell of fire.

## Matthew 5:23-25

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then coming, offer your gift. 25 Make friends quickly with your accusers...

## Matthew 5:23-25

23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 LEAVE your gift there before the altar and GO. First BE RECONCILED to your brother, and then coming, OFFER your gift. 25 MAKE FRIENDS quickly with your accusers...

# BE RECONCILED.

- It is better to first listen carefully rather than to begin by accusing or by stating our position.

# BE RECONCILED.

- It is better to point to my own problem, saying, “I feel hurt by something you said,” rather than to speak judgmentally and say something like, “You often insult me.”

# BE RECONCILED.

- In reconciliation, it is not our job to defend ourselves. The Lord is our vindication and the upholder of our reputations.

# BE RECONCILED.

- In reconciliation, we own what we need to own. We confess our sins and our failings to love, show kindness, or put another's needs above our own. We apologize and pray for one another.

# BE RECONCILED.

- At times for true reconciliation to happen, restitution needs to be made.



*“So if you are offering your gift at the altar,  
and you remember that your brother or sister  
has something against you, leave your gift  
there before the altar and go. First be  
reconciled to your brother, and then coming,  
offer your gift. Make friends quickly with your  
accusers.”*

**(Matthew 5:23-25)**