



Series:
'The Rule of Life.'

Week 6:

Living In Reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:11-20



SERIES OVERVIEW:

- ☀ **1) Living in Jesus** – Encouraging a deeper relationship with Christ.
- ☀ **2) Living in Prayer** – Encouraging a more disciplined and creative prayer life.
- ☀ **3) Living in Transformation** – Encouraging each other to experience transformation.
- ☀ **4) Living in Fellowship** – Encouraging increased awareness and acceptance of each other.
- ☀ **5) Living in Mission** – Encouraging a greater heart to serve God's world.
- ☀ **6) Living in Reconciliation** – Encouraging a more gracious way of handling conflict.
- ☀ **7) Living in Submission** – Encouraging a greater desire to submit to God and to each other.

1. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER:

- ✱ Christians – a bad reputation at times -
- ✱ The 'ministry' of reconciliation (*2Cor.5:19*) -
- ✱ Reconciliation requires us to accept the truth of the matter -
- ✱ Discovering and defining the true nature of the conflict -

1. The Truth of the Matter Cont'..:

- ✱ a) Doctrinal disputes –
- ✱ *'Unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, love in all things.'* [Old Adage]
- ✱ b) Policy differences –
- ✱ c) Discipline problems –
- ✱ d) Personal conflicts -
- ✱ *'...when disagreements become selfish squabbles that feed on character assassination, they can destroy the unity of God's people.'* [Martin R De Haan]

2. A GODLY ATTITUDE:

- ✦ Personal vindication or justification rather than reconciliation and restoration –
- ✦ Reconciliation requires us to consider our attitude –
- ✦ First focus – our self – our hurts etc -
- ✦ Second focus – the other persons faults -
- ✦ Using 'sharp language' -

2. Godly Attitude Cont'd...:

- ✦ Willingness to identify our own share of responsibility for the conflict – *(Matt. 7:4,5)*
- ✦ *If there is one thing which is likely to make a difference when we raise issues, it is our readiness to acknowledge where we have ourselves been in the wrong.* [Wycliffe International]

3. A DESIRE FOR RESTORATION:

- ✦ Following a 'biblical pattern' – *(Matt. 18:15-20)*
- ✦ Reconciliation requires us to have a genuine desire for restoration –
- ✦ We could choose to overlook the offence –
- ✦ Step One – Confront graciously
- ✦ Step Two - Involve wise counsellors
- ✦ Step Three – Bring it to the Church
- ✦ Step Four – Follow up with Compassion

THE FINAL WORD:

From 'The Peacemaker's Pledge' –
'Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation – forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.'