




# Freedom Through Forgiveness

**Reconciliation – the “Goal”  
of Forgiveness  
Eph. 2:13-16**


# Resources Used in Series

- The Bible – particularly the NT.
- *Total Forgiveness*, R T Kendahl
- *Forgive and Forget*, Lewis Smedes



1. Forgiveness and reconciliation are two different concepts. Forgiveness must occur first, then reconciliation.

- Forgiveness - Luke 11:4 And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. ...
- Reconciliation – Eph 2:13 – “you who once were far off have been brought near... 15 For He himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, ...”




2. Reconciliation, unlike forgiveness, requires *repentance* on the part of the offender(s).

### Reconciliation.

A. *Takes two.* V 2:15 (both groups); v 2:17

B. *Requires repentance* of the offender. Luke 3:3, 8; Luke 17:3-4

C. Attempt to reconcile is commanded by Jesus. Matt 5:23-24; Rom 12:18



3. Christ died on a cross to reconcile the world to himself. How can reconciliation with others not be the goal for Christ's followers?

A. The sins of the whole world are forgiven through the cross. 1 John 2:2

B. We receive forgiveness when we open the gift offered us by Jesus by faith. Eph 2:8

C. We are reconciled with God through our repentance. This restores us to God and makes us one with Christ. Acts 3:19, Acts 2:38; 1 John 2:4-5

## Next steps.

- A. Use the “HELPS” tool and process an area of your heart where unforgiveness is tucked away. Listen to the series of sermons online again.
- B. Ask the Holy Spirit to identify those in your life you have forgiven but are not reconciled with. Pray about approaching them for reconciliation.

**H**

# Forgiveness Steps.

**E**

**Hurts must be identified, measured.**

**Write them down.**

**Bad emotions must be put away, replaced.**

**Free myself from the burden of revenge.**

**L**

**Let my offender go.**

**Yield the space to the Holy Spirit.**

**P**

**Pray for my healing.**

**"Heal my wounded heart, Jesus."**

**Send blessings on my offender.**

**Just like Christ from the cross!**

**S**