

Attitude # 7 - Reconciliation

**Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God."
I ask forgiveness from all those I have hurt or dealt with unfairly.**

Reconciliation - the ending of conflict or renewing of a friendly relationship between disputing people or groups, the making of peace between enemies.

Words that are synonymous are: settlement, resolution, reunion, bringing together, ceasefire.

In most cases reconciliation will begin with words if it begins at all. One interesting thing to consider is that in many cases the offence began with words as well. If a conflict does not begin with words, we can say with confidence that it can continue with words until the reconciliation takes place. Words are a powerful thing.

Proverbs 18:21a - Life and death are in the power of the tongue.

We can use our words to build up and we can use them to tear down. Many of us have found ourselves in situations that we regretted being in and even knew we should not have been in regarding the things that we have said. To keep guard on what we say and what we do not say takes discipline. However, there is no excuse for us to cast off any effort to gain a better understanding of the use of our words and put that understanding to good use.

I have been guilty of finding out that I would have been better off to either stay out of a certain situation and/or to have chosen better words when I found myself in a situation. Solomon gives us some very sound instruction regarding "staying in our place." This instruction, when we follow it, will help us to avoid conflict and thereby eliminate the need for reconciliation, keeping us in "our right place" in various situations in life.

Proverbs 26:17, 20-22 - He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears. 20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth. 21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife. 22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

These verses we might say are "situational." They speak about real life situations with which we are familiar. They also speak of things that we have been on both sides of. When we begin to make these things personal by way of application, we can start lessoning our need for reconciliation.

1. **Vs. 17 - The unnecessary involvement - He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.**

We can cause more problems by meddling in problems that were never our problem to begin with.

- Stay out of situations that God has never led you into.
- If we have not been invited to help, let them end it, as they began it, between themselves.
- Remember, if there is already strife and we have not been invited by God and/or the two parties to help reconcile it we can cause even more strife.

2. **Vs. 20 - The absence of involvement - Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.**

To be a talebearer is to be a backbiter, one who murmurs, slanderer or gossiper.

Solomon tells us that one of the ways that strife will cease is when this type of behavior ceases to happen. To be that type of person is a choice and to not be that type of person is a choice as well. This is a sure way to be a peacemaker, by not throwing more wood on the fire.

3. **Vs. 21 - The continued involvement - As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.**

Our continued involvement in matters that do not concern us can and will keep the strife going whereas it could have at one time ceased. The fire of strife either dies out, solved by reconciliation, or it is added to.

4. **Vs. 22 - The damage of involvement - The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.**

The person who has no business in someone else's business can inflict wounds that can and do go below the surface.

Do not give ear to talebearers; they feed the fire of contention with fuel. Those who by insinuating low character, revealing secrets, and misrepresenting words and actions, do what they can often to make relations and friends, jealous of one another, to alienate them one from another, and sow discord among them. Strife will cease and the fire will go out when it has no fuel.