

Power to Reconcile

May 26, 2013

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

An Awakening Has Begun

Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

Matthew 24:32; Mark 13:28

Then He spoke to them a parable: Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.

Luke 21:29-30

But, Fruit is Required, if a Fig Tree is truly to prove a Fig Tree

Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance . . .

Matthew 3:8

Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance . . .

Luke 3:8

. . . they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.

Acts 26:20

He also spoke this parable: A certain man had a **fig tree** planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. **Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?** But he answered and said to him, Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.

Luke 13:6-9

Now in the morning, as He returned to the city, He was hungry. And seeing a **fig tree** by the road, He came to it and **found nothing on it** but leaves, and said to it, Let no fruit grow on you ever again. **Immediately the fig tree withered away.**

Matthew 21:18-19

Finding Something On the Fig Tree

Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house. So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner. Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. well.

Luke 19:2-10

Reconciliation

Katallagē (Kah-tah-lah-gay)

1. Agreement of things seemingly opposite, different or inconsistent.

Luke 9:2

Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

2. Opposing viewpoints coming to a point of understanding

Luke 9:5

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.

Luke 9:6

So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

Luke 9:7

But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.

3. exchange of equivalent values - correcting the books, bringing balance to the scales

Luke 9:8

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.

4. adjustment of a difference, reconciliation, restoration of health

Luke 9:9

And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

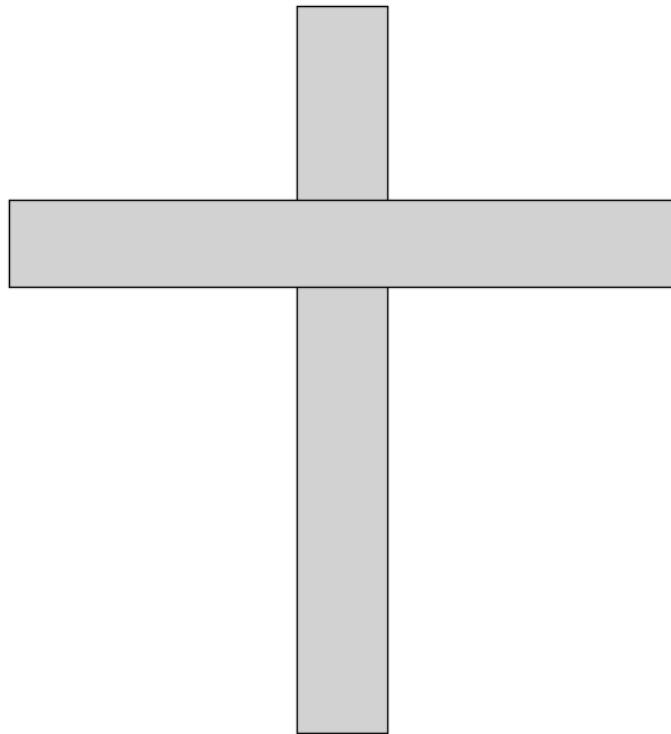
5. recovering a favor that was lost

Luke 9:10

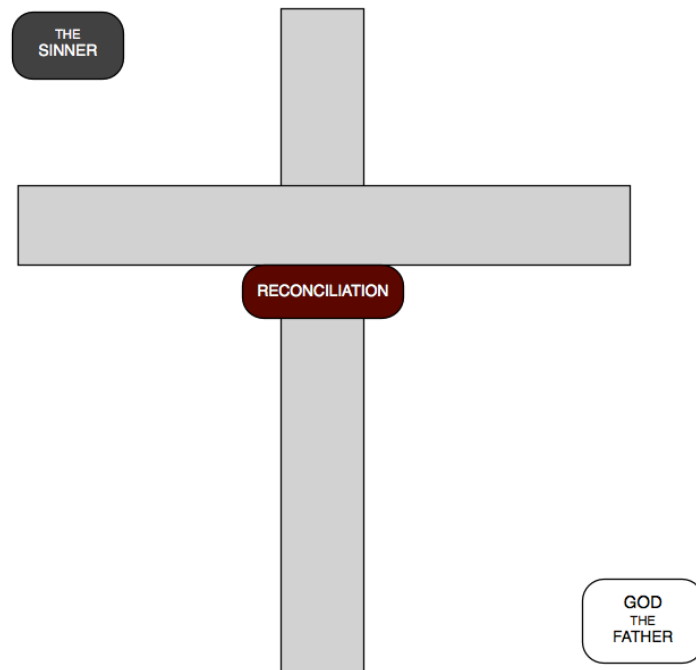
for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

How Reconciliation Works

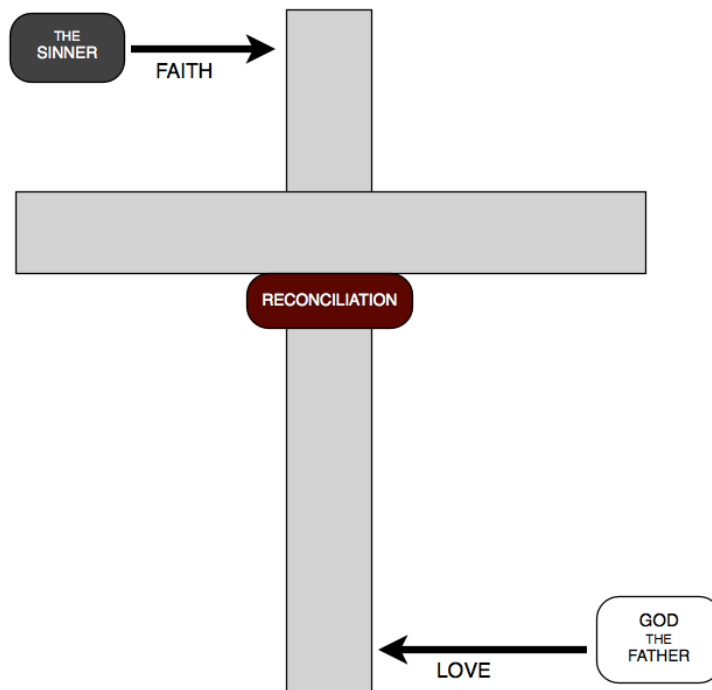
The Cross is the Key



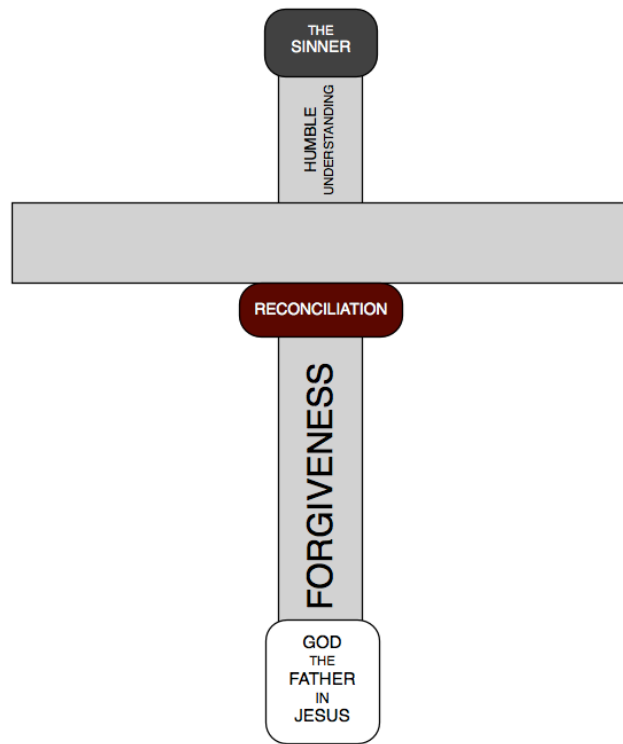
Alienated and Cut-Off



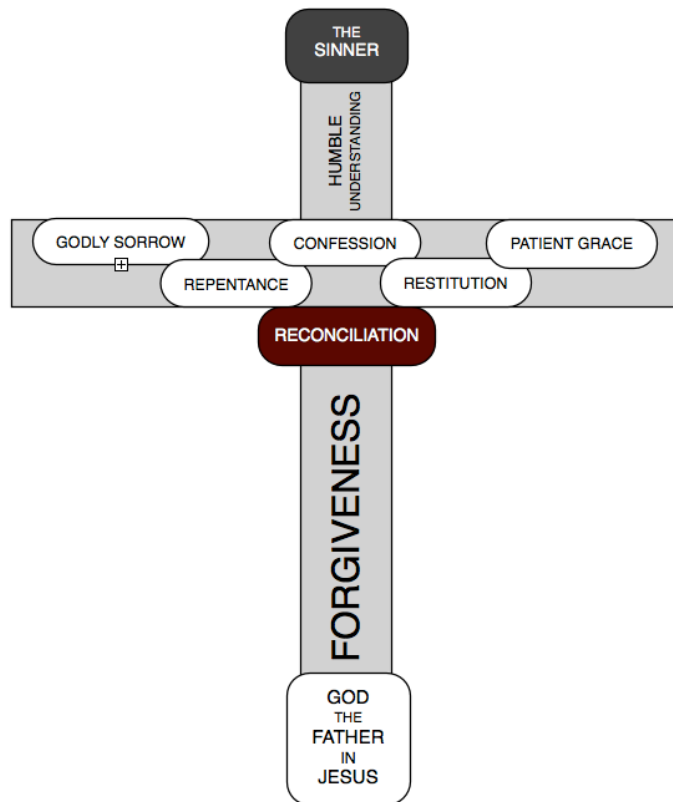
John 3:16



Faith Must Work



Faith Must Prove Fruit



The Ministry of Reconciliation

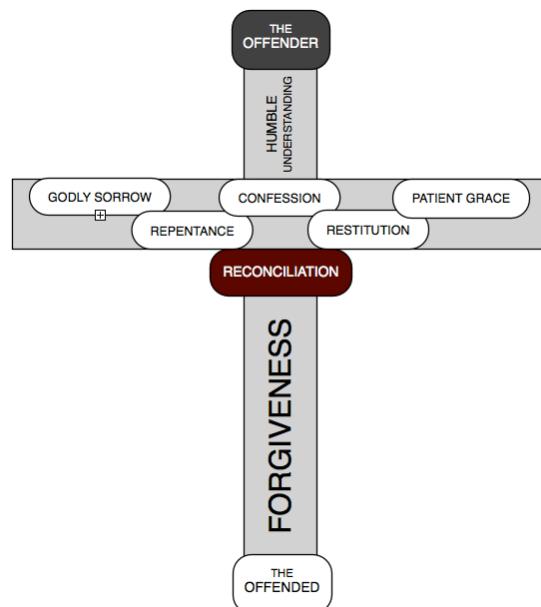
Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

We are to be Reconcilers

But, First . . .

To be a Reconciler, We must be Reconciled

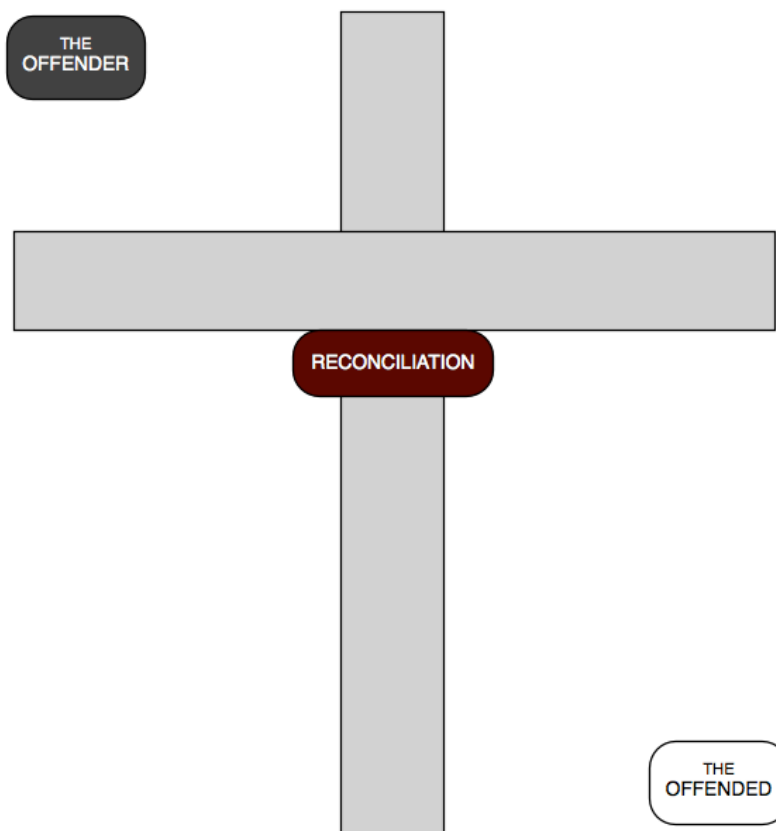


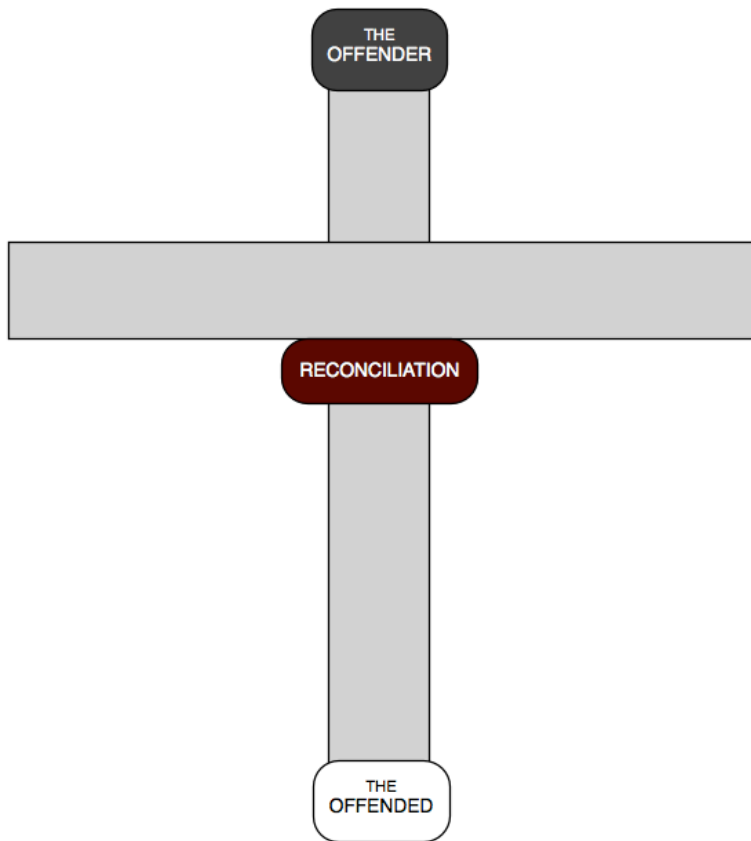
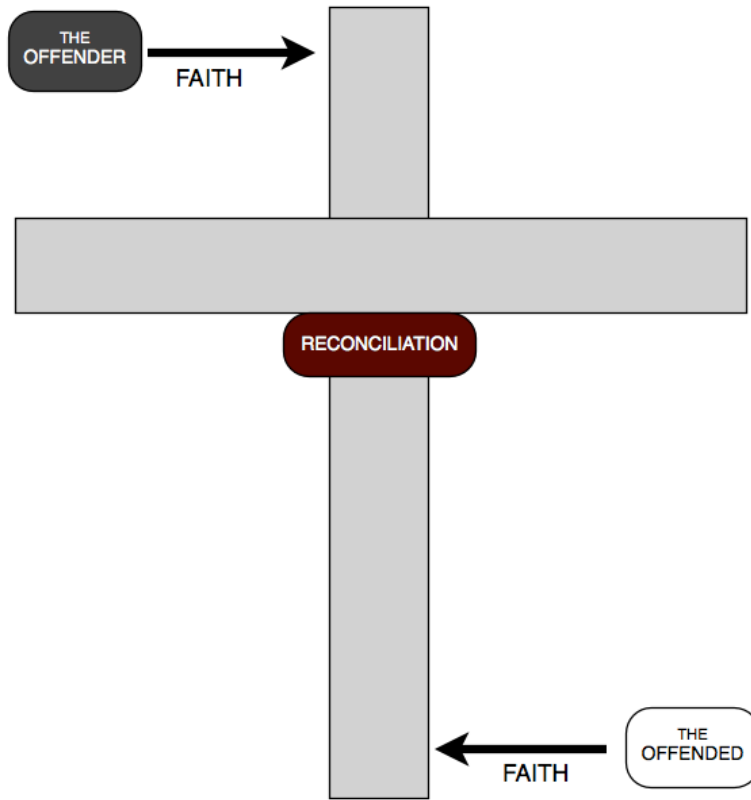
You Must Personally Have a Working Faith

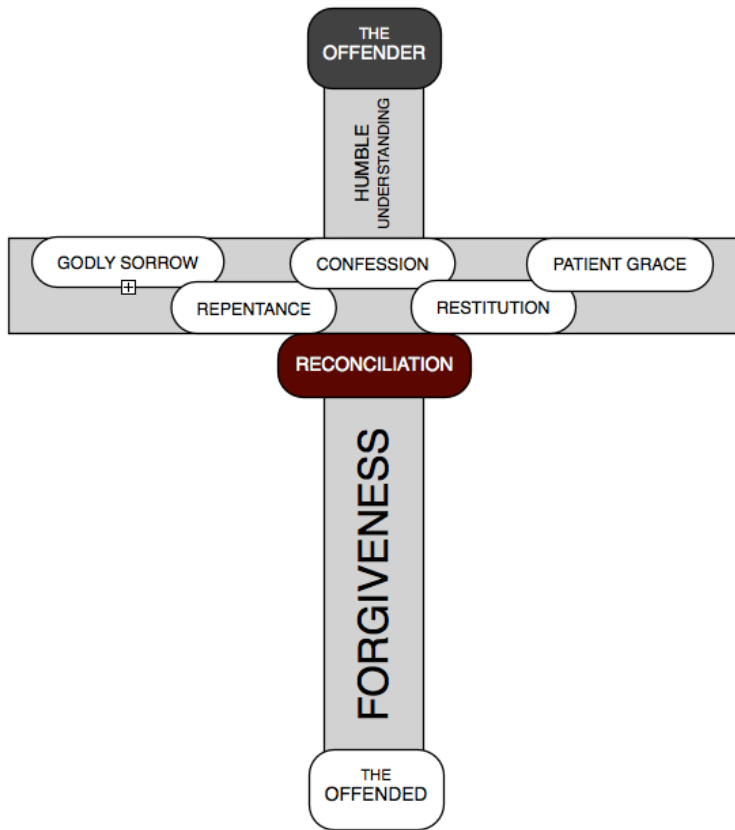
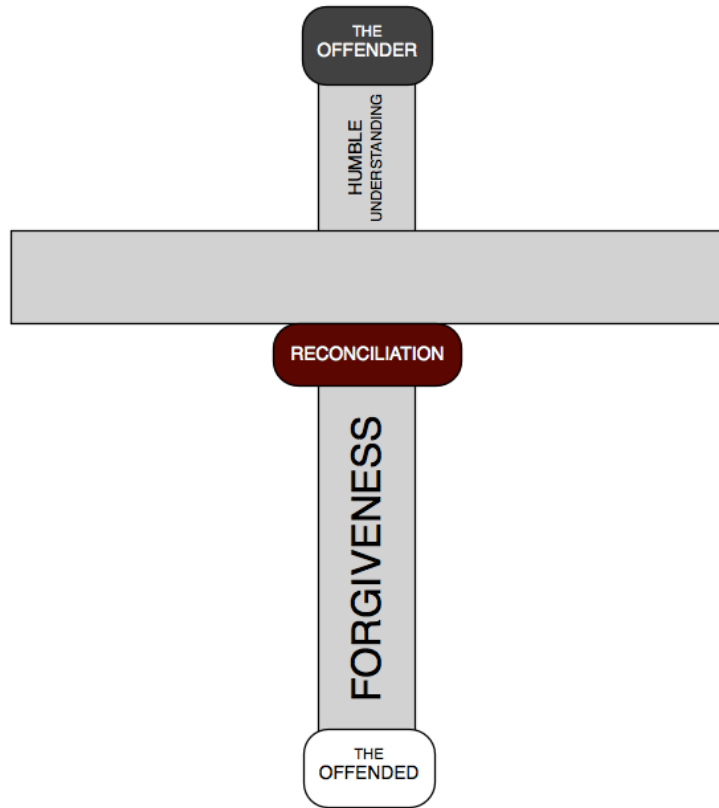
In order to Call Someone Else to a Working Faith

Following the Pattern

What Works Between God and Man, Works Between Man and Man







Understanding the Cross Beam

A Closer Examination of the 5 Fruits of Faith

Fruit #1 - Godly Sorrow

Wow! I really did mess things up! I wouldn't blame you for cutting me out of your life. I understand why this brought you pain. I ache, just thinking about what I've put you through.

Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

2 Corinthians 7:9-11

Fruit #2 - Repentance

That's it! I'm not living this way any more! I'm saying goodbye to this way of living! In Christ I am a new creature, and I reckon this ungodly, fleshly behavior dead and buried IN HIM, and therefore, it is now considered past tense.

Fruit #3 - Confession

I agree with God - my behavior was wrong. My behavior was not in agreement with God and was harmful, disrespectful, and dishonoring toward you. I acknowledge with my tongue that what I did was deserving of a cutting off. I'm IN Christ, and now by God's grace, I have the power and the ability to properly walk out this relationship moving forward.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:9-10

Fruit #4 - Restitution

I really did hurt you. I want to make this right. I want to correct that which I did wrong. I own my mistake. If I stole I will pay back with interest. If I slandered, I will clarify the truth to those I spread false words to. Whatever is necessary to make this wrong right, I'll do. This relationship is too valuable to me to allow any stone to remain unturned, any debt unpaid, or any wrong not made right.

If fire breaks out and catches in thorns, so that stacked grain, standing grain, or the field is consumed, **he who kindled the fire shall surely make restitution.**

Exodus 22:6

Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.

Luke 19:8

Fruit #5 - Patient Grace

I recognize that I broke trust, and I recognize that trust is not rebuilt overnight. I'm willing to patiently walk this out with you. I will not press you to trust me beyond whatever trust-level you are ready to give. I realize this will be a process of recovering trust and confidence in the genuine nature of my repentance. Please know that I am so blessed by your willingness to walk this through with me and not completely cut me off. I commit to being sensitive to the healing of your soul in this process. I officially want to switch from being a problem in your life to a helper in your life.

The Glory Ding

Hitting the Sweet Spot of God's Purpose, and thus, His Glory

The Minister of Reconciliation

The Holy Spirit

The Responsibility of The Two Parties

The Offender and the Offended

Party #1 - The Offender

Party #2 - The Offended

Who Takes the Initiative?

Take heed to yourselves: **If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him**; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

Luke 17:3-4

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, **go and tell him his fault** between thee and him alone . . .

Matthew 18:15

What if The Offender Has No Understanding of the Offense?

What if Both Parties are at Fault in the Matter?

What if there is Disagreement as to what Happened?

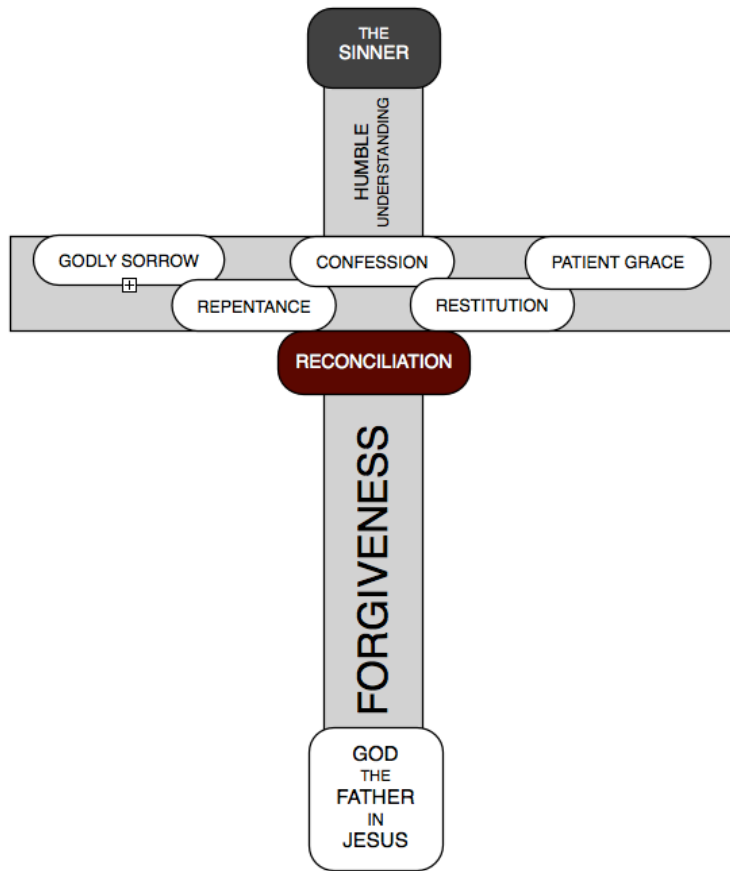
What if what the Offender Did was Extreme?

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owes. And his fellow servant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Should not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if you from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Matthew 18:21-35

Christianity

Being Forgiving and Being Forgivable



If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Romans 12:18