

## HOW TO RESTORE A RELATIONSHIP

*From The Cradle To The Cross – Part 7*

*“God blesses those who are peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God.”* Matthew 5:9 (NLT)

*“Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.”* James 3:18 (NLT)

## HOW TO BE A PEACEMAKER

### 1. MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.

*“If you’re standing before the altar in the Temple, giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. Go at once and first be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God.”* Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)

### 2. ASK GOD FOR WISDOM.

*“If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask Him, and He will gladly tell you . . .”* James 1:5 (LB)

### 3. BEGIN WITH WHAT’S MY FAULT.

*“What causes fights and quarrels among you? They are caused by selfish desires that are continually at war inside you.”* James 4:1

*“Pride only leads to arguments . . .”*  
Proverbs 13:10 (NCV)

*“Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? . . . First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.”* Matthew 7:3,5 (NCV)

### 4. LISTEN FOR THEIR HURT AND PERSPECTIVE.

*“. . . be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”* James 1:19 (NLT)

*“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”* Phil. 2:4-5 (NIV)

*“. . . we must bear the ‘burden’ of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...”* Romans 15:2 (LB)

### 5. SPEAK THE TRUTH TACTFULLY.

*“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”* Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

*“Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed...”*  
Ephesians 4:29 (TEV)

### 6. FIX THE PROBLEM, NOT THE BLAME.

*“You must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”* Colossians 3:8 (NIV)

### 7. FOCUS ON RECONCILIATION, NOT RESOLUTION.

Reconciliation = reestablish the relationship  
Resolution = resolve every issue

*“God has restored our relationship with Him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. God was in Christ restoring His relationship with humanity. He didn’t hold people’s faults against them, and He has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. We are Christ’s representatives . . . We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God.”* 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (GW)