



“Super Smash Bros Brawl”

November 21/22, 2009

Some people just seem to like to fight. Have you ever known someone like that? Most of us would rather avoid conflict... but everyone faces it to some degree in life. Hey, some people can't agree with themselves. All it takes is two people and you are going to have a difference of opinion. So community is the context for conflict... and therefore the context for reconciliation as well.

In our Life Journal reading this week we read this passage...

2 Corinthians 5:19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

We are meant to be reconcilers. It is one thing to want reconciliation, it is another thing to take steps to make it happen. Sometimes we don't know what steps to take. Today we will look at four steps to take toward reconciliation.

1. Glorify God

1Cor 10:31

How can I please and honor God in this situation?

- You can TRUST God.
- You can OBEY God
- You can IMITATE God
- You can ACKNOWLEDGE God

2. Get the log out of your own eye

Matt 7:3,5

How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?

- Conflict starts in the HEART

James 4:1-3, Matt 15:19

- Confession brings FREEDOM

1 Jn 1:9

- Address everyone involved
- Avoid if, but, maybe
- Admit specifically what you did
- Acknowledge the hurt
- Accept the consequences
- Alter your behavior
- Ask for forgiveness

3. Gently Restore

Gal 6:1

How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?

Matt 18:15

- Just between the TWO of you
- Speak the truth in LOVE

Eph 4:15

Matt 18:16

- Take ONE or TWO others along

4. Go and be Reconciled

How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a solution to our conflict?

- Forgive as God forgave YOU

Col 3:13, Eph 4:32

- God desires restored relationships

Jer 31:34b, Ps 103:12, Ps 130:3-4, 1Cor 13:5

- FOUR promises: I will not... dwell, bring up, talk to others; let this stand...

In THOUGHT Phil 4:8, WORD Luke 6:27-28, and DEED 1Jn 3:18, 2 Cor 5:18-19