

SERIES BIG IDEA:

We are better together when we love one another.

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Because I'm right with God, I work hard to make things right with others, as far as it depends on me.

TEACHING SUMMARY:

In this teaching the rubber hit the road. It is often easy to divide our love for God from our love for others. We are experts at compartmentalizing. It is easy to think about growing our love relationship with God and just ignore those around us who have hurt us or we have hurt and don't want to seek forgiveness from.

Often times the reason we don't want to seek out loving others is because of past hurt. In 2 Corinthians, Paul tells us that "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

Reconciliation begins with forgiveness and repentance. When we freely forgive and humbly repent (admit our sin and seek forgiveness) of the wounds we have inflicted on one another God is honored. Have you accepted the forgiveness of Christ? Are you willing to forgive others? Will you humbly seek out the forgiveness of others by repenting? Will you commit to love and pray for those who hurt you? If you can't answer yes to all these questions please accept the challenge of praying for a changed heart.

TALK IT OVER:

When have you received forgiveness that you didn't deserve? How did that affect your relationship with that person?

What are some barriers to seeking forgiveness in your life from others?

Does the fact that Jesus' forgiveness was offered to you without hesitation help you in both seeking and giving forgiveness? Why or Why not?

Who is someone in your life that you need to take steps to reconcile with? What is stopping you?

What is one next step you can take to, as far as it depends on you, make things right with others in your life?

FURTHER READING:

Day 1: Luke 6:43-45

Day 2: Matthew 6:14-15

Day 3: Luke 17:3-4

Day 4: John 14:6

Day 5: Romans 6:8-14