

was finishing my senior year of uni studies and was hard-pressed to complete one of my final research projects. My shift-work job had kept me working nights for several weeks so I felt pressured to try to finish the research project with the small amount of time I had left. I decided to stay at home on a Sunday morning.

That particular Sunday was my wife's first Mother's Day. We had waited 8 years for our first child. This was a big event for her. At church, mothers were honoured, asked to stand, and given a flower. But I was not there to honour her. I was focused on my research project.

I will never forget the mixture of pain, shame, and anger I saw in her eyes as she returned home. In tears she tore up the flower and threw it away. I was stunned, silent. I had crushed her, not by being consciously abusive but by being insensitive and oblivious to her needs. I had missed an opportunity to honour her. Never again would there be a first Mother's Day. I couldn't change what I had done.

Tearfully, I went to her and apologised. I had no excuses. My failure was obvious. I asked her forgiveness. We talked, embraced, and wept. The paper didn't seem important any more. She offered me the gracious gift of forgiveness that opened the door to rebuild the closeness we both craved.

Restoration in our human relationships gives us a finite taste of the joy God experiences when we in repentance come to Him admitting our sin. After all, God loves to forgive. Love fuels His longing to forgive, just as it also motivates His willingness to make an issue out of sin. It is that kind of love Nehemiah wrote about when he prayed:

They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them (Neh. 9:17).

The message of the gospel is forgiveness that leads to reconciliation--the restoration of the broken relationship between God and man. We who were at one time far from God and living in opposition to Him have been brought near to enjoy a restored relationship with Him (Rom. 5:8-11; Col. 2:12-19).



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Healing Relationships

When there has been a separation in a relationship and things are made right through repentance and forgiveness, there is a wonderful moment of release that words cannot describe.

Most of us have felt moments of tension in a relationship with a friend or family member. Moments that felt so thick the air could be cut with a knife. In many cases, the issue was not what we would think of as an unforgivable sin. Yet even in the daily pains and problems of relationships, confession, forgiveness, and restoration can be a wonderful source of renewal and joy.

I can vividly recall the tension I caused in my relationship with my wife one morning. I





Living Delight Healing Relationships

(Proverbs 13:10) "By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom."

James teaches and Paul illustrates two fundamental ways for Christians to relate:

1. The _____ way; in the _____, James 3:14-16, 4:1-6, Ephesians 2:11-13



(Matthew 22:37) "... You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
(Hebrews 4:12) "... is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
(Luke 22:24) "Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest."
(3 John 1:9) "I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us."

2. The _____ way; in _____, James 3:13, 17-18, 4:6-10, Ephesians 2:14-22, 4:4-6

(James 3:13) "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom." [paraphrase]

Three steps:

1. Know what we _____,
2. Repent of _____,
3. See our _____ in _____,



Please answer 5 questions. Questions relating to:

- ◆ **People**
- ◆ **Pride**
- ◆ **Confession**
- ◆ **Relationship**
- ◆ **Service**



(Luke 22:25-27) "And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' {26} "But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. {27} "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves."

