

Indiana Winter Retreat  
January 13-15, 2017  
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**How to Thrive When No One Likes You**  
**Lecture 3: Reconciliation**

1. Intro: in order to be healthy, a body must be able to deal with its junk!
2. The centrality of reconciliation
  - a. We *have* to take sin against God and others seriously. (Ephesians 2:13-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19)
  - b. Reconciliation of Jew and Gentile flows into other kinds. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11)
  - c. Reconciliation is *the removal of the moral and spiritual barriers which separate people*.
3. The Need for Reconciliation
  - a. Difference means friction
  - b. Tribalism is natural
  - c. Bad habits require reconciliation
  - d. Open wounds demand reconciliation
4. The Basis of Reconciliation
  - a. The cross of Christ (Acts 3:15; John 12:32; Hebrews 12:24):
  - b. The triumph of Christ (Mark 15:39; Romans 1:4; John 1:5; 1 Corinthians 2:7-8; John 12:31; Genesis 3:15; Revelation 12; Psalm 47:9)
    - i. The resurrection makes it okay for me to forgive. (1 Peter 4:19; 2:23).
    - ii. The resurrection makes it urgent for me to repent.
  - c. The kingship of Christ (Matthew 5:24b-25; John 13:34; Galatians 2:20)
  - d. The death and resurrection of humility and forgiveness (James 3:10)
5. The Practice of Reconciliation
  - a. Forgiveness is mandatory. (Genesis 45:4-5; 50:19-20; Matthew 6:11, 13-15; 18:35; Luke 23:34)

- b. You being wrong doesn't make me right. (James 5:14-16; Proverbs 3:11; Hebrews 12:8-9, 11-14; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9; Job 40:42 Hebrews 5:8; Micah 7:8-9)
  - c. Confession is mandatory. (Psalm 51:4; 2 Samuel 11-12)
  - d. Sing it to the Judge. (Psalm 137:1-3, 8-9; 10; 94:20; 123:4; Matthew 5:5; Psalm 37:10-11; 1 Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 19:3; 11:15; Daniel 2:34; Acts 9:8-9; 1 Peter 5:8)
  - e. Show me your faith by your works. (1 Timothy 3:3)
  - f. Reformed churches must recover the practice of fasting. (2 Corinthians 6:5; 11:27 KJV; 1 Corinthians 7:5; James 4:2; 1 Peter 5:6; Psalm 35:13; 109:24; Judges 20:6; Acts 13:1-3; Isaiah 58:3-6)
  - g. Public worship is the end and the beginning of reconciliation. (Matthew 5:23-26; 1 Corinthians 11:29-31)
6. How to deal with a problem between you and another Christian
- a. Pray for humility, clarity, and wisdom. (Proverbs 26:12; 29:20)
  - b. Consider whether there is anything you ought to have done differently.
  - c. Express sorrow ("I'm sorry") and ask forgiveness ("Please forgive me").
  - d. Be as forbearant as you can. (Proverbs 19:11)
  - e. Give the other person space so that the Lord can work.
  - f. Go to the house of God. (Ephesians 2:11-22; 3:14-19; Romans 15:1-6)
  - g. Repeat these steps, as necessary, for the rest of your life.

#### Further Reading:

Rosaria Butterfield: *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ*

Jonathan Haidt: *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*

Oliver O'Donovan: *Bonds of Imperfection: Christian Politics, Past and Present; The Desire of the Nations: Rediscovering the Roots of Political Theology; and The Ways of Judgment*