

RESOLVING EVERYDAY CONFLICT

Week 8: Go and Be Reconciled—
Forgiveness Part 2

FOUR PROMISES OF FORGIVENESS

- I promise I will not dwell on this incident any longer
- I promise I will not bring up this incident and use it against you in the future.
- Because we have been reconciled, I promise not to talk to others about this incident.
- I promise I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our relationship moving forward.

DISCUSS

- **In your experience, which of the four promises of forgiveness are most often broken, indicating that only pseudo-forgiveness has taken place? Why?**

WHAT ABOUT CONSEQUENCES?

- True forgiveness does not mean that sin does not have consequences
- Occasionally, because of the personal, relational nature of the offense, total relational restoration may be extremely difficult—but not impossible.
- Wisdom in context is required to understand or determine the consequences of an offense—mercy with no consequences is always in the option pool (think Jean Valjean).
- Generally speaking, after true reconciliation no consequences should be relational.

DISCUSS

- **How do you understand and practically navigate the personal tension between genuine forgiveness and enforcing consequences?**

CLOSING THOUGHTS

- “I did everything, and it didn’t work. What now?”
 - Pray (Matt. 5:44)
 - Continue to control what you can control (Rom. 12:18)
 - Guard your heart (Rom. 12:14)
 - Don’t take matters into your own hands (Rom. 12:19)
 - Find opportunities to show extravagant love (Rom. 12:20-21)
- “Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” Jas. 1:22