

## I Hurt Someone, What Do I Do?

**Matthew 5:23-24** If you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first, be reconciled to your brother, and then<sup>1</sup> come and present your offering.

### Leave and Go

If you "remember" that "your brother has something against you" (meaning you have hurt them), Jesus directs you by the Holy Spirit to go to them. If you know or sense that somehow, willfully or even unintentionally, you have hurt a brother through obvious or subtle rejection, offense, dishonoring, or mistreatment, Jesus places the responsibility of reconciliation on you, the offender, to value the person by restoring that relationship. Jesus said, "leave," and "go." You already have the forgiveness of your sins and peace with God through the blood of Christ, but that will not give you peace with others, especially when you have hurt them.

*2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

Jesus said, "go be reconciled to your brother." Reconciliation means "exchange." Reconciliation is "a change from enmity to friendship. It is mutual; it is a change wrought in both parties"<sup>2</sup> from discord, hostility, hatred, animosity, or antagonism to peace. Do not justify your guilt or ignore the Holy Spirit. It is true that God has forgiven you and that you are not perfect, but that alone will not preserve peaceful and harmonious relationships. Through the death of Christ, you have peace with God. Through the life of Christ, you can live, "as far as it depends on you" at peace with your brothers.

### **Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.**

**Rom 12:9-10** Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.

**Rom 12:17** Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

**Rom 12:21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**1 John 4:7-11** Let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this, the love of God was manifested in us that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**1 John 4:16, 18-19** We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love because He first loved us.

**2 Cor 6:3** Giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited.

**2 Cor 6:23** Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or the church of God just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of many, so that they may be saved.

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<sup>1</sup> Psalms 51:16-19

<sup>2</sup> Easton's Bible Dictionary