

The Ministry of  
Restitution and Reconciliation  
– Walking in Forgiveness –



Roger & Gerri Taylor

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*By Roger and Gerri Taylor*

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# The Ministry of Restitution and Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Amp. *“But all things are from God Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself (received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself (and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation (that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him). 19 It was God (personally present) in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against (men) their trespasses (but canceling them), and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). 20 So we are Christ’s ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We (as Christ’s personal representatives) beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor (now offered you) and be reconciled to God.”*

Webster’s Dictionary says the following:

- Restitution:           1) an act of restoring or a condition of being restored as:
- a) a restoration of something to its rightful owner or
  - b) a making good of or giving an equivalent for some injury
- 2) a legal action serving to cause restoration of a previous state
- Reconciliation:       1) the action of reconciling: the state of being reconciled
- Reconcile:             a) to restore to friendship or harmony
- b) to settle or resolve differences

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation belongs to all of us. We are all called here. Are there parents out there who have not sinned against their children? Is there a son or daughter alive that has not in some way sinned against their parents? Is there a spouse anywhere that has not in some way sinned against their own spouse? Are there family members who have not sinned against other family members? Are their friends who have not sinned against friends? In my opinion, the obvious answer to all these questions is the

same. NO! Whenever and wherever we enter into relationship with another person, there is the potential for sin to occur, and it usually does. Because we are human and not Divine this should be expected. However, how we handle or do not handle the situation can make all the difference in our lives and in all future relationships.

Can you identify a pattern in your life regarding how you deal with your sin against love? Our sin against another person is a sin against love. More specifically, it is a sin against Father God's love and a misrepresentation of His love for the person we sin against.

When you see your sin against another person, do you go to your Heavenly Father and repent for your sin specifically and ask His forgiveness? Then do you go to the other person and apologize specifically identifying your sin and asking their forgiveness? This process is not about what the other person or persons may or may not have done to you. This is about your sin and your obligation as a Child of God to take responsibility for your actions, humble yourself before God and your peers and walk in the ministry of restitution and reconciliation. We are not responsible for how the other party responds to us, but we are responsible before God to do our part to bring healing to the situation.

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation is first and foremost about love. Now there is a subject to ponder. This is not about what most of us call love, but about Father's love. He intended that we (humanity) would have an intimate, personal relationship with Him made possible through Jesus. He intended that we would each experience His unconditional love for us and then we would give His love away to each person we meet. If we will make the choice to embrace the ministry of restitution and reconciliation, if we will choose to be delivered of our pride and ask Father for His grace to walk in humility, our lives will be transformed. If we will pursue Father with a hearts desire to enter into a personal, intimate relationship with Him and experience His unconditional love for us, our lives will be transformed again. Couple all this together and not only our lives will be changed but our other relationships will be changed also.

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation is also about humility. Humility is the opposite of pride. Which one will bring Father's blessing and which one will cause us to fall? I might say that walking the path of humility will cost you everything. It will cost you your pride. Pro. 16:18-19. The degree to which you recoil at the thought of going to your spouse, your children, your family, your friends, your pastor, your co-workers, etc. and specifically apologizing for your sin against them will give you an indication of the amount of pride you walk in. Friends, Father warns us about pride, because it is bondage. Going to my children was difficult for me, but when I realized I must go to my wife, I almost had a panic attack. I thought I would rather die than have to face her with all my sin against her. But Father worked out the timing and place for it all and gave me the grace to take another major step in the healing process for myself and my family. Thank You, Father for the revelation of the ministry of restitution and reconciliation and thank You for the conviction and the grace to follow through. You have again blessed and changed my life and the life of my family.

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation is also about faith, trust and hope. First of all it is about our faith, trust and hope in Father that He will go with us to each of our encounters for restitution and reconciliation and knowing that His grace is sufficient. It is also about believing that He will strengthen us and give us wisdom in each circumstance, and that most of all we will have the privilege of imparting His love to each person we go to.

Secondly, as we humbly go to each person seeking restitution and reconciliation, there is the possibility that mutual faith, trust and hope can be restored in each relationship with sin forgiven, wounds healed, bondages broken and liberty restored to each captive.

If we do not humble ourselves and go, our sin remains along with the offense, bondage and wounding in each relationship. This makes receiving Father's love and giving it away to the next person we meet very difficult at best. We believe that he who has the revelation must take responsibility and step forward attempting to make restitution and bring reconciliation.

Please note: In cases where there has previously been abuse of any kind, you must not go alone.

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation is applicable to groups as well as individuals. Have you been offended, abused, wounded, mistreated by a school, a church, a denomination, a company you worked for, an organization, the military, a city, county, state or federal government? If so, our attempts at restitution and reconciliation must be carried out as far as our sin goes. For example, if your pastor or boss sins against you privately, then you should attempt restitution and reconciliation privately. If their sin against you was public, and you had a sinful reaction in public, then your attempts at restitution and reconciliation must be public also.

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation should be an attempt on our part to carry our Heavenly Father's unconditional love for us into each situation where we have offended, wounded or in anyway sinned against another person. Take our children for example. We may have sinned against them by being abusive in some manner or we may have sinned against them by not being expressive with our love for them; not enough hugging, kissing and demonstrated affection; not enough eye contact and reassuring words of love, affection and confidence; not enough participation in their lives from conception on. Perhaps we were unable to provide an atmosphere of safety and security. Whatever the situation, Father's unconditional love applied can begin the process of restitution and reconciliation.

# The Process

If the Holy Spirit has convicted you about participating in the ministry of restitution and reconciliation, try not to become anxious about it. Rest and pray. Ask Father to show you who, when, where, and how; then trust Him to prepare you and the other person(s) for your encounter. Remember, this is His idea and part of His plan for life. He is with you, not against you. Do not respond out of guilt, shame, or condemnation or a “I have to do this” attitude. If you do, chances are good you will go with a resentful, angry edge and not be well received. Our purpose must be to correct our misrepresentations of love in relationship. We cannot successfully do that if we feel we are being forced into humbling ourselves before others. Check your heart attitude.

Keep your focus on developing a personal, intimate relationship with your Heavenly Father and trust Him to guide you through this process. Some of your encounters will be a one time event culminating in restitution and reconciliation. Other encounters may take more than one occasion to accomplish restitution and reconciliation. No matter how long it takes or how many encounters it takes, be persistent until you have accomplished all you can. If the other party(s) is uncooperative, do your part, bless them and move on. Put the cross of Christ between you and the unresolved issues and don't look back worrying about what you cannot change.

Remember the ability to love others properly comes from our own personal experience with Father's love for us. His love is pure, untainted and unconditional. He offers us a gift (His love) we do not deserve, then He expects us to do the same for others; that is, offer them a gift they may not deserve. We may not realize it but most of us are motivated by love hunger. We have a love deficit. In varying degrees our love needs were not met by our

family of origin. Therefore we operate out of a need to be needed. We give love the best we can, but we give love with a hook on it. We want something in return, such as what can you do for me that will make me feel better about myself, my circumstances and my life.

If you would like a wonderful guide for handling these encounters see [Boundaries Face To Face ~ How to Have That Difficult Conversation You Have Been Avoiding](#) Cloud and Townsend.

# Priorities

Proverbs 16:9 *“A man plans his way, but God orders his steps.”*

Having been a performance oriented person, I like to work from a list. I feel more comfortable with a list, so my tendency here would be to prioritize a list of people that I need to see and start at the top and work down. The danger in developing our list is that we may organize the Holy Spirit out of the process and that is the last thing we want to do. However, as a consideration, remember everything we do in life should flow out of our relationship with Father. It would be wise to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unresolved issues you may have with Father and make Him your first stop in your ministry of restitution and reconciliation. Secondly, Father holds us accountable for our relationship with our spouse and children. They must be a top priority.

# Healing The Hearts of Your Family

God forgives us the first time we ask when we misrepresent His love to another person. But to break the cycle of our family continually reaping in their relationships from the dishonor or judgment we have sown it is often necessary to make every effort to bring healing to others and seek to restore the fractured relationships before we, and our family, are free from repeating the cycle of relational problems again and again. That is the ministry of restitution. (See Matthew 5:22-26 and 18:21-35)

How can you begin breaking the curse off of your family of not feeling that they have a special place in the center of your heart. What will begin the process of restoration within family relationships?

## The Ministry of Restitution.

1. Pray about God revealing to you each way you may have brought offense or defilement to each individual family member (see Psalm 139:23-24).
  - Ask for the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to you. (See John 15:26 & 16:7-8)
  - Ask for the gift of repentance. (See Romans 2:4)
  - Ask for each family member to have a forgiving heart.
  - Ask for the proper timing (date) to implement the ministry of restitution – allowing at least a month for prayer and preparation of your heart.
2. Begin preparing a written blessing (to speak good things) for each individual family member.(In Genesis 49:28 Jacob blessed his sons)
  - Affirm the gifts and talents you see in their life.
  - Affirm the positive character qualities.

- Speak prophetic healing and non controlling prayers.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you each time you misrepresented God's love and grace to each individual family member.

You do not sin in general against a person. Healing does not usually come from a general apology, "I am sorry I was a poor parent." That usually changes nothing nor does it begin restoring trust. Be specific about listing each sin against love and honor.

- On separate sheets of paper for each family member, write down each offense committed against each person – choice of words, tone, looks, attitudes, neglect, inability to express love, and behavior that demeaned, devalued or dishonored them.
4. Prepare to practice the ministry of restitution – this is an actual meeting where your family will step out of darkness and bondage and move into the light where healing begins.
    - Schedule the meeting during the best time of day for them. Allow plenty of time to facilitate this encounter.
    - You may ask a spiritually mature authority in your life to meet with you who has helped you see your blind spots and in whom you are holding yourself accountable.
    - Each spouse may first want to do this with each other.
    - The parents would join together to do this with each child individually while the other children are at school or with friends.

**The Month or More of Preparation Has Past**

**It is time for the actual ministry of restitution meeting to take place.**

5. We should share with the person that God has been revealing to you how your attitude and actions have misrepresented God's love and grace to them.

- Approach with genuine brokenness over your sin, humility, honor and respect.
- Talk to them about your generational history and how it effected you growing up as a child. Do not hide anything. See Neh. 9:2 and Ps 78:2-8
- What was your relationship with your parents like?
- What were some of the things they did that hurt you most?
- What pain did you go through with brothers or sisters?
- How did you judge and dishonor your parents?
- Share anger, bitterness and resentments you carried towards them.
- Be honorable, but real and let them know that now you have forgiven them and they have changed but you have become like them in many ways. Share how you have.

6. Share other abuses or deep wounds that effected your childhood and how the pain carried over into your adult years. (See Romans 13:12-14 and Ephesians 5:11-13)

- Hurts from peers.
- Loss or grief
- Inner vows made
- Sexual abuses or molestation

7. Share how you feel that your childhood and youthful pain became adult pain and how it effected your relationship with them as your spouse or child. Examples:

- Fear of failure and rejection
- Fear of receiving or giving love

- Controlling emotions
- Anger intensity, hostility, disciplining with harshness
- Never apologized to as a child and now rarely apologize to others
- Introvert or escapism
- Walls of self protection
- Inability to bond or have healthy relationships

8. Say to each person:

- You have not been the problem
- You are not to blame for my anger, behavior or actions
- You are not the broken one. It has been me.
- You are not an accident, but a gift of love that God gave me. My hidden pain and anger has not been able to receive the gift. You are a treasure of God's love.

9. Ask them to forgive you for each individual offense against love.

- Be specific, look them in the eyes, and ask forgiveness for each thing you have written on the list. It is ok to have the list in your hand to refer to.
- Do not try to diminish your offense by blame shifting, justifying your behavior, or try to make an excuse because you were having a bad day. That only serves to diminish Godly repentance. Take full ownership of how you misrepresented God's love and grace. Be specific about how you did so.

- Have them look you in the face and ask them to say the words, “I forgive you.”

10. Pray over each person

- That the words that brought them feelings of dishonor or shame be broken off of them and displace them by speaking positive words.
- That each wound be washed and cleansed with the blood of Jesus
- That God’s love cleanse out any sense of fear or shame

11. Pray the parental prayer of blessing over them that you have written in advance.

- It is to affirm their life, gift and talents and to speak good things over them.

12. Say over them “I pronounce you released from my sins against you.”

- Let them know that you will not be perfect but promise to seek forgiveness from them when you misrepresent God’s love in the future.
- Give them permission to help you see in the future when you step out of walking in love and begin to bring offense again.

The lack of walking out the ministry of restitution with your family and acknowledging faults lessens your authority in the eyes of your family. They may lose respect for you or rebel. To practice the ministry of restitution, you are a partner with God and with what He is doing on the earth today. This is to be done by the Spirit and not just following it line by line or it may come across lacking genuine repentance and humility.

- Single moms can stand in for the fathers and help lead their children into healing

- Adult children can stand in for their grandparents and do this with their parents.
- Step parents can do this with their adopted or foster children.

# Conclusion

We believe we were created by Love (Father God) for love (our purpose) and love is to be expressed in relationship with God (The Trinity) and with our fellow man. Since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, mankind has had a very difficult time experiencing love and relationship the way Father intended we should. What most of us do not realize is that Father is available to each of us today just as He was available to Adam and Eve. Jesus is the way, but Father should be our destination. If we will make it a priority to pursue an intimate, personal love relationship with Father the overflow of His unconditional, expressed love for us will bless all our relationships.

Since most of us live with love hunger or a love deficit in our lives, it makes giving and receiving love most difficult. In most cases where there is wounding or offense in a relationship, we play the blame game; we determine fault and get defensive. Our pride can become a stumbling block and we can take on a victim mentality. Love is nowhere to be found. You will find that one of the greatest hindrances to experiencing the Father's love is the unwillingness to walk in the ministry of restitution and reconciliation.

The ministry of restitution and reconciliation must not be viewed as a burden, but must be viewed as an opportunity for growth and healing. If we want to receive love, we must be willing to give love even to those who seem not to deserve it. That's the wonder and blessing of Father's love. He offers it freely to all of us but we certainly don't deserve it. If we will make a sincere effort to move toward restitution and reconciliation, the Holy Spirit will go with us and by His grace we can expect life changing results and blessings to follow.

It is important to remember that forgiveness and healing are two different things. One can forgive and not be healed, but it is impossible to get healed and not forgive. Forgiveness is foundational to the healing process.

Sample Healing Prayer ~

Heavenly Father I come to You in Jesus Name to repent for my sin against love. Father I see I have sinned against love with my spouse, my children, my extended family, my friends, my co-workers, and against my brothers and sisters in Christ. I have misrepresented Your unconditional love, Father, and I am sorry. Please forgive me. And now Father I ask for your grace to help me enter the ministry of restitution and reconciliation. Show me each person I should go to and show me specifically every sin against love that I have committed against that person. Father show me the appropriate time and place for each encounter and most of all Father, prepare me to carry Your love into each situation. Father I repent of all pride and I choose humility and love as my way of life. I have received Your precious, undeserved gifts of love and forgiveness and I now desire to carry those same gifts to others as You direct me. Father I declare right now, in agreement with You, that I am a gift of love to my world. Let it be so in Jesus name. Amen.

A Spiritual Blessing ~

We bless you now in the Name of Jesus to flow in a heart-felt spirit to restore and reconcile with those in your world around you. We bless you to take the necessary time of preparation needed so that you will move in this process within Father's perfect timing in each situation. We bless you to understand the importance of this ministry and to know deep in your heart that if you do not forgive others, He cannot forgive you. Matthew 6:15. We bless you now to go and restore and reconcile with all those who will receive you and shake the dust off of your feet should they reject your attempts. Be blessed in the name of Jesus, our ultimate Forgiver!

