

Command of Christ → Reconciliation Scripture reference → Matthew 5:23-25

Opportunities for offences and grievances will occur.

- God will allow them (to perfect us). / How will you respond?
- Scripture addresses this because the first recorded example led one brother to kill another brother.

Something between you and someone else can hinder your worship of God.

- How can we worship with a clear conscience knowing someone has something against us?
- How can we offer gifts to God when we have something against someone else?
- Leave your gift at the altar. → Go and make peace with your brother. → Then come back and present your gift to God.
- There is nothing that can compare to a clear conscience.

When dealing with issues, grievances, and offences:

1. Learn how to let go.

- God's forgiveness and reconciliation for us is our foundation for forgiving others.
- Life is too short to carry any unnecessary burdens.
- You are only harming yourself. (mind, emotions, body)
- God loves that other person as much as He loves you.
- Not letting go is actually putting yourself in prison.

2. Don't allow things to continue for an extended period of time.

- Quickly (while still in the way).
- Sin permitted --- will lead to more sin!
 - Works of darkness breed in the darkness. (Romans 5:11, Ephesians 5:11, 1 John 2:11)
- Unhealed wounds will get infected.
- Stuff un-dealt with can lead to stuff beyond your control.
- (v.26) The longer you let it go, the more it will cost you.

3. Do your part.

- You are responsible for you. (mote in the eye...)
- You are responsible to follow through God's way.
- You may even have to bite the bullet and be the mature one.

Scriptural order for addressing someone after you have been wronged. (Matthew 18:15)

God wants us to be free from offence towards Him AND others.