

THE Big 3

EPISODE: 115

TITLE: How to Move From Forgiveness to Reconciliation

Jesus secured for us what we never could earn for ourselves: the forgiveness of sin and the restoration/reconciliation of our relationship with his Father, God.

Both forgiveness and reconciliation! We can do the same in our relationships with others.

1. **One person can forgive; it takes two to reconcile...** but this starts in *your* heart. Your role and first responsibility is to truly forgive the person, cancelling the debt and releasing your own heart. Ask God to grant you deeper understanding into the situation and the other person's needs. Pray for His mercy to be your's as well.
2. **Before beginning to work on reconciliation and restoration, both parties must first forgive** and commit to doing all that they can to restore trust and relationship. If only one person has done the work of forgiveness, or either party is not ready to reconcile, then you will need to let the relationship "rest" until both are ready.
3. **Play the role of pursuer**, like that of the prodigal Father. Once you have forgiven the person and are ready to move toward reconciliation, reach out in humbleness, offering forgiveness and begin to test the waters of trust. Seek to understand where the other person is in the process of forgiveness or offering of an apology. (Or maybe it's you that needs to apologize!) Either way, be the pursuer

You don't have to continue to live with the pain of a broken relationship. There is hope—it may seem risky—but God desires that all of our relationships be whole and life-giving. You can trust him, first with your heart, and then with others'.

Thanks for listening...we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath

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