

“Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends.” Proverbs 17:9 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 17:1-10

I believe that all quality relationships go through some kind of conflict. I say “conflict” but it could be any kind of intense trauma. One leader calls it the “tunnel of chaos.” But, inevitably, whether it’s with friend or foe, some kind of reconciliation must take place. I’ve got a slowly-scabbing wound and honestly, do not look forward to the day of reconciling - oh i’ve forgiven, we just haven’t seen each other yet. Do believers know that somewhere, somehow, someone will fail them and most likely hurt them? Do we live in some kind of fantasy world where that never happens? We must be taught and prepared to put on our big-people pants and do the hard work of forgiveness! First one in gets some kind of “maturity” prize, because only the mature believer understands how important and painful this process really is. I LOVE what the wisdom writers pen - LOVE PROSPERS, when this happens. Don’t I want to live life free of avoiding some folks, or have a clear conscience to speak well of everyone? Who needs all that baggage while on this journey? Want me to tell you why it’s so difficult? It’s not the depth of our hurt, it’s the epitome of our pride. We do NOT like bending, lowering or humbling ourselves before anyone. It’s even hard to humble ourselves before God! No forgiveness, no reconciliation and pretty soon everyone is just the walking dead! Zombie Christians fumbling though life waiting for the grave. You do know that all those who are believers end up being your eternal neighbors. And, comedy of heaven, that person you just can’t stand will end up right next door 😊.

Dad,
You have given us the message of reconciliation!

“For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:19

“Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.” Ephesians 2:16

“And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.” 2 Corinthians 5:18 NLT

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root