

## HEAL THE DIVIDE

May 28, 2017 Matthew 5.23-24 by Bob Branch

*A Call for Reconciliation*

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“Our country is deeply divided. I have never seen it like this, or even close. Pray for a healing of the divide.” —**Ken Calvert**, U.S. Congressman

**BIG IDEA:** Today I want to talk a bit about reconciliation and call us to jump with both feet into the mission, ministry and action of reconciliation. Heal the divide.

There’s a gap, a rupture, a chasm, a breach.

**God is in the reconciliation business.**

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” **Colossians 1:19-20**

“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.” **2 Corinthians 5:19**

**Where is there a broken relationship in your world?**

“...if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift”

**Matthew 5.23-24**

- **Worship includes reconciliation.**
- **Starts by coming before God... awareness**
- **Responsibility** on the worshipper
- **Stop — Go** (initiate) “Be reconciled” Jesus says.

**YES, BUT HOW?**

1. PREPARE your heart.
2. ENGAGE them personally.
3. Try to HEAR what was going on in them.
4. ADMIT that it’s broken.
5. Take RESPONSIBILITY for your part.
6. APOLOGIZE. “I was wrong. I’m so sorry. Would you please forgive me?”
7. EXPRESS your care for them.
8. Make RESTITUTION.

**BUT, WHAT IF?**

- BFF? Potential for growth?
- It’s a beginning. Forgiveness. Reconciliation. Trust.
- What about where you’ve been abused?
- Don’t write, text, email, post this! Person-to-person only.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” **Romans 12:18**