Process of Forgiveness 4 Reconciliation

Forgiveness is a **choice**.

- 1. Releases people of debt
- 2. Releases people to God's righteous judgement (mercy)
- 3. Releases us from tormentors
- 4. Releases God's healing

[Reconciliation is the goal and purpose of forgiveness]

[Do we want reconciliation or retribution?]

- Vengeance locks us into unforgiveness.
- Reconciliation is God's justice
- God's <u>mercy</u> is often perceived as an <u>injustice</u>.

Reconcile: To **buy back** or bring back into right relations

To <u>restore</u> relationally
To <u>win over</u> to friendliness

To make or cause to become **amicable** (to be at peace)

To bring into **harmony**

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NLT)

[3 areas in regard to reconciliation]

- 1. Vs 18 19: God reconciled us to Himself in Jesus
 - Jesus suffered the just penalty for sins
 - Reconciliation is God's justice
- 2. Vs. 19: We have this message of reconciliation
 - We are to share this good news
 - God's not angry at us
- 3. Vs. 20: Will you be reconciled to God?
 - "Come home where you belong"
 - Believe, repent and receive

Example: Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

- Father forgave and reconciled
- Younger son repents and was reconciled

• Older brother refuses to reconcile

Luke 15:28-32 (NLT)

- He wanted retribution <u>not</u> reconciliation
- Reconciliation was God's justice (mercy)

Example: Lamech (Genesis 4:23-24)

- 7x70 in vengeance in regard to his murder
- Jesus reversed this thinking (Matthew 18:22)
 7x70 in forgiveness

Example: Joseph (Genesis 45)

- Forgave his brothers
- Potiphar's wife / Potiphar
- The jailor / the butler

<u>Reconciliation</u> was possible because of <u>forgiveness.</u>

Joseph preserved the righteous seed for Messiah's lineage. Joseph saved Egypt and Israel from famine.

[Take Away]

- 1. Reconciliation is justice because of the cross.
- 2. God is all about relationship **not** religion.
- 3. Reconciliation is made possible through forgiveness.