

Restored & Reconciled Relationships.



MARCH 2022

Relationships make life sweeter. Establishing and maintaining godly relationships is key. Knowing how to handle them greatly impacts the level of joy we experience. A broken relationship has a ripple effect on other areas of our lives; when it happens, we need to know what to do and how to repair it. The question I want to answer today is: How do you restore a relationship that is in conflict?

To have healthy, supportive relationships, you need a relationship with God, first. You can't separate God and His Word; when you're separated from His Word, you're separated from the supernatural. Once you have that relationship with God, you can know how to relate to one another, how to communicate, how to be a friend and build relationships. Most people don't know anything about grace-based relationships, so they don't have the foggiest idea what to do when conflict shows up. God's Word says, *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity"* (Proverbs 17:17, NIV). Friendship is established so that when adversity shows up, someone is there in the midst of it; you don't leave your friend in tough times. When everyone else is gone, a friend is still there.

Friends are reliable and can be counted on when things get rough; we don't have to beg them to help us. Religion tells us we have to beg and plead until God responds; Jesus says He's our friend. We can ask Him one time and He hears us. Friends are friends even when it's inconvenient. The Bible says everyone

will know that we're Jesus' disciples by the love that we have one for another (John 13:35). Grace-based relationships are based in the kind of love Jesus taught and modeled.

The starting point of dealing with conflicts is love. The two types of love that can reconcile a conflicted relationship are *agape* and *phileo*. Agape love is unconditional love not based on merit; we show it because we are image-bearers of Christ. This love is generous and continues to give even when someone else is unkind, unresponsive, or unworthy. It only desires good things for the other person and is compassionate. When conflict comes up, love can't become conditional. It must remain unconditional. The love didn't start because they deserved it; it can't end because they don't deserve it. Phileo love is a deep, intimate friendship built over time. It begins with a decision to love unconditionally; over time, that agape love gives birth to a compassionate friendship.

Together, agape and phileo love will help reconcile a conflicted relationship. Our natural tendencies have us putting ourselves first, but the kingdom of God is the opposite. Treating others right takes humility and a willingness to move ourselves out of the center of the circle. *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others"* (Philippians 2:3, 4, NIV). Trying to do this without God's help was demanded by the Law of Moses and guaranteed

A FRIEND IS BORN FOR ADVERSITY

failure. We need the Holy Spirit to come up alongside us if we're to repair broken relationships. With God's help, we can do this.

I want to show you how to build better relationships and restore and reconcile broken ones. Please know that it's okay to take the time you need to get healed from relationship trauma. You don't want to go into new relationships with a wound that's still exposed. Don't be so "spiritually deep" that you try to apply principles while you still have an open wound. Sometimes conflicts in relationships are the result of you trying to establish something that didn't need to be established. Make sure you're allowing the Holy Spirit to connect you with who you need to be with.

Taffi and I love you and pray for you every day. May the blessing of God be on you and your family. Remember, Jesus is Lord, and "...in all of your getting, get understanding."

In Expectation,



Creflo Dollar

P.S. Don't forget to visit the Partner Portal to download this month's free message.

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"A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES, AND A BROTHER IS BORN FOR A TIME OF ADVERSITY" (PROVERBS 17:17, NIV).

2022

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Monday – 9:30AM (Repeat)

FAITH AFRICA CHANNEL 343

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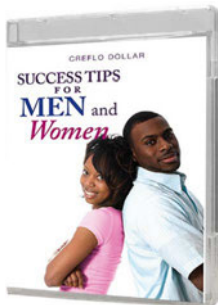
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