

# Real Reconciliation - Liz Harris

Conflict is like a wall between us. Forgiveness is an event or process that knocks down the wall. Reconciliation is the work of clearing away the debris and doing repair work on the relationship. Restoration is the goal.

Ephesians 4:1 - 5:2

2 Reasons for Reconciliation: Reason 1: Because Christ reconciles us to God.

2 Reasons for Reconciliation: Reason 2: Because of our witness to unity in the gospel

The process of reconciliation:

1. Opening the way:

## **Personal Activity:**

Think and write about the process of the progression of the relationship with your husband/fiance/boyfriend/best friend..... Someone you are not currently in conflict with.

Where were you when you first met?

In the beginning did you spend lots of time alone or with a group of others? In private or public?

What kinds of things did you talk about to begin with?

How did the relationship progress? Slowly or quickly? How long did it take to begin to spend time alone?

How did the topic of conversations change over time?

Were there obstacles along the way? Were there times when you misunderstood each other or offended each other? What did you do? What did they do? How were these obstacles overcome?

Now that the relationship is deeper, how has it changed? Has it changed the kinds of things you do together? The way you relate to each other? Have you changed? Have they changed?

2. Reconciliation involves deliberate effort.

3 Reconciliation is often slow and difficult.

4. There are no guarantees: people will stumble.

5. Definite steps are required.

**Specific Issues relating to Reconciliation:**

Those who don't repent:

Repeat Offenders.

Criminal Offenses:

My Sinfulness:

If you were to take the first steps to reconcile with a person that you have been in conflict with, what would those first steps involve?