

## **THE FINAL WORD:**

*Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation - forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.' [From 'The Peacemaker's Pledge']*

Next Session (w/c Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>) - **'Living in Submission'** -

**At Housegroup this week you will receive a copy of 'The Peacemaker's Pledge' - it would be good if the members of your group would consider committing themselves to this pledge.**

## **THE DEBRIEF:**

What is the main thought you will take away with you from this message?

What one or two things will you DO with what you have heard?

Is there anything you will do differently based on the truth that has just been shared with you?

W/C Sunday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2010 A.M.

**Series: 'The Rule of Life.'**

**WEEK 6:**      **LIVING IN RECONCILIATION.**

**Reading:**      **2 Corinthians 5: 11-20**

**INTRODUCTION:**

### **1. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER:**

- \* Christians - a bad reputation at times -
  
- \* The 'ministry' of reconciliation (2Cor.5:19) -

**Reconciliation requires us to accept the truth of the matter -**

- \* Discovering and defining the true nature of the conflict

a) Doctrinal disputes -

*'Unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, love in all things.'* [Old Adage]

b) Policy differences -

c) Discipline problems -

c) Personal conflicts -

*'...when disagreements become selfish squabbles that feed on character assassination, they can destroy the unity of God's people.'* [Martin R De Haan]

## **2. A GODLY ATTITUDE:**

\* Personal vindication or justification rather than reconciliation and restoration –

### **Reconciliation requires us to consider our attitude –**

\* First focus – our self – our hurts, our feelings, our rights, our fears, and our agenda -

\* Second focus – the other person’s shortcomings and faults –

\* Using ‘sharp language’ - words that cut and wound –

\* Willingness to identify and acknowledge our own share of responsibility for the conflict – (Matt.7:4,5)

*If there is one thing which is likely to make a difference when we raise issues, it is our readiness to acknowledge where we have ourselves been in the wrong.*  
[Wycliffe International]

## **3. A DESIRE FOR RESTORATION:**

\* Following a ‘biblical pattern’ – (Matt. 18:15-20)

### **Reconciliation requires us to have a genuine desire for restoration –**

\* We could choose to overlook the offence –

\* Step One – Confront graciously - “...go and show him his fault, just between the two of you...”

\* Step Two - Involve wise counsellors – “But if he will not listen, take one or two others along..” –

\* Step Three – Bring it to the Church – “...If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church....” –

\* Step Four – Follow up with Compassion –

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