



Our last two topics were on the power and imperative of Christian love and unity. A commitment to this high calling brings a corresponding responsibility. Paul wrote that God “has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20). As a diplomat at the UN, you are a “dealer of peace.” As an ambassador of Christ, you are an “agent of reconciliation.” Ken Sande, lawyer and author of *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, wrote about true forgiveness, the ultimate test of reconciliation:

“Through forgiveness God tears down the walls that our sins have built, and he opens the way for a renewed relationship with him. This is exactly what we must do if we are to forgive as the Lord forgives us: We must release the person who has wronged us from the penalty of being separated from us. We must not hold wrongs against others, not think about the wrongs, and not punish others for them. Therefore, forgiveness may be described as a decision to make four promises:

“I will not dwell on this incident.”

“I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.”

“I will not talk to others about this incident.”

“I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.”

“By making and keeping these promises, you can tear down the walls that stand between you and your offender. You promise not to dwell on or brood over the problem or to punish by holding the person at a distance. You clear the way for your relationship to develop unhindered by memories of past wrongs. This is exactly what God does for us, and it is what he calls us to do for others.”

Rick Warren suggests 7 steps to restoring broken fellowship in chapter 20 of *Purpose Driven Life*. Let’s consider each and compare it with your experience in uniting nations.

1. Talk to God before talking to the person. James 4:1-2
2. Always take the initiative. Matthew 5:23-24
3. Sympathize with their feelings. Philippians 2:3-4, Romans 15:1-2
4. Confess your part of the conflict. Matthew 7:3-5
5. Attack the problem, not the person. Proverbs 15:1, Ephesians 4:29
6. Cooperate as much as possible. Romans 12:18
7. Emphasize reconciliation, not resolution. Romans 14:19, Matthew 18:15-17

One last thought: Vengeance is still an option. See Romans 12:17-21

*“Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.”
(Romans 12:18 TEV)*