



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FORMED FOR GOD'S FAMILY – FELLOWSHIP Week 4. Restoring Broken Fellowship (p153-159)

Relationships are always worth restoring. "Since Christ wants his family to be known for our love for each other, broken fellowship is a disgraceful testimony to unbelievers."
(page 153)

1. On page 154, Rick Warren says, "If you want God's blessings on your life and you want to be known as a child of God, you must learn to be a peacemaker."
 - How can you be a peacemaker if you were never taught how to resolve conflict?
2. Warren states on page 154, that peacemaking is not avoiding conflict and it is not appeasement.
 - Why do you think most people deal with conflict by pretending it doesn't exist or by giving in?
 - How do you deal with conflict?
3. Warren also states on page 154 that "Sometimes we need to avoid conflict, sometimes we need to create it, and sometimes we need to resolve it."
 - What do you think Warren means by this?
 - Can you think of any examples where you needed to avoid conflict, where you needed to create conflict, or where you needed to resolve it?
4. On page 155, Warren says, "As believers, God has *'called us to settle our relationships with each other.'*" Warren proceeds to list seven Biblical steps to restoring fellowship in the midst of conflict. Step 1 is to **Talk to God before talking to the person.**
 - Why do you think this step is crucial before you do anything else?
5. Step 2: **Always take the initiative.** On page 156, Warren states that "When fellowship is strained or broken, plan a peace conference immediately."
 - Why is it important for you to make the first move?
 - Why is it necessary to seek peace immediately?

6. Step 3: **Sympathize with their feelings.** “Use your ears more than your mouth.” (page 156)
 - Why is listening a valuable step in resolving conflict or in restoring a broken relationship?

7. Step 4: **Confess your part of the conflict.** “If you are serious about restoring a relationship, you should begin with admitting your own mistakes or sin.” (page 157)
 - Why is owning up to your mistakes and asking forgiveness a powerful tool for reconciliation?

8. Step 5: **Attack the problem, not the person.** “In resolving conflict, *how* you say it is as important as *what* you say. If you say it offensively, it will be received defensively.” (page 158)
 - Explain what is meant in this step.

9. Step 6: **Cooperate as much as possible.** “Peace always has a price tag. Sometimes it costs our pride; it often costs our self-centeredness.” (page 158)
 - How do you cooperate with someone who has hurt you?

10. Step 7: **Emphasize reconciliation, not resolution.** “It is unrealistic to expect everyone to agree about everything. Reconciliation focuses on the relationship, while resolution focuses on the problem.” (page 158)

Warren says, “We can establish a relationship even when we are unable to resolve our differences. Christians often have legitimate, honest disagreements and differing opinions, but we can disagree without being disagreeable.” (page 159)

- Is there someone with whom you need to reconcile?
- What steps will you take towards reconciliation?

Unless otherwise noted, all Page References are to Rick Warren’s book, “What On Earth Am I Here For?”