RELATIONAL
RELATIONSHIPS
RECONCILIATION
RMPP EVENT 45

SCHEDULE

Welcome and Zoom Etiquette

Opening Prayer

Speaker Introduction

Message: *Relational Relationships; Reconciliation*

Q&A and Discussion

Breakout Rooms

Closing Prayer

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RELATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: RECONCILIATION

SYNOPSIS

The core principle of discipleship is to reconcile people to God. Context is essential in understanding the Bible but also necessary in understanding relationships. Healthy relationships need maintenance. Broken relationships need repair, which often involves a lot of hard work if reconciliation is to be achieved. Relational relationships are vital in restoring and reconciling people to God and one another.

| *Event Messages and Devotional Booklets*

You can find RMPP messages and devotional booklets from events past and present at: https://themstproject.com/events

| *Scripture Reflection*

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. - *Colossians 3:13 (NLT)*

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. - *2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)*

EVENT 45

| *Questions to Consider*

Who do you need to be reconciled to?

What difference would reconciliation make to the relationship?

When you compare the feeling of being reconciled with the feeling of being at odds with someone, what is it that keeps you from making up ASAP?

Read Matthew 5:24 and then imagine you are God looking down from heaven at you and your need to be reconciled to someone. How do you think He feels?

| *Recommended Reading*

How to Have Impossible Conversations: A Very Practical Guide: *Peter Boghossian, James Lindsay*

18 Words: *J.I. Packer*

NOTES

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

DEVOTIONAL 1

Reconciliation is at the core of the Christian faith. What does the Bible say about this, and how are you instructed to live it out?

Reconciliation is expensive, but necessary.

What can we learn from God's word to confirm this truth? Every relationship needs proper care and 'maintenance.' No relationship can survive without care. And when it breaks, reconciliation is needed to mend it. The word reconciliation is not that simple because it requires time, labour and compromises. This is why it is very expensive. God himself reconciled the world through the sacrifice of His loving son, Jesus Christ - the most precious and expensive sacrifice for reconciliation that God ever made to manifest his love for the world (John 3:16). However, this world is so broken and in order to fix this brokenness we need to go through the reconciliation process. But before we can discuss the process of reconciliation, let us first understand why we need reconciliation.

God created this world and everything in it so beautifully and without any brokenness. Everything is captivating and attractive, allowing us to imagine the beauty of God. We can find God's existence in nature through which we can perceive how perfect, amazing, and full of beauty our Creator God is. If we look at the book of Genesis of the Bible, there is a brief description of creation. God's first step on the first day was to separate the light from darkness. On the second day, He separated the sky from the waters. He separated the land from the water and created all the plants on the land on the third and fourth days. The fifth day saw the creation of all kinds of living things such as animals, birds, fish, etc. On the sixth day, He created man.

God rested from all His creative work on the seventh day. He blessed and sanctified that day and essentially celebrated His creation. He created the sun, the moon, the planets, the constellations, the galaxies, and filled the sky. Then he filled the land and the sea with plants, birds, other animals, and fish. He saw his creation and said it was good. But when he created man, he said it was very good.

Can you explain why God said it was very good after creating man? To answer this question, we need to understand that when He created other creatures, those creatures were not

representatives of God. Only man was created in the image of God, who then has the ability to act as representatives of God. Being created in the image of God means being endowed with judgment, conscience, social skills, creativity, decision-making ability, and other various traits. Since God gave humans freedom and the ability to reason and make decisions, they could have enjoyed this freedom. Instead, they disobeyed their Creator, God. Disobedience is sin, and it was this sin that damaged our relationship with God and created problems in our relationship with God, with people, with nature, and even with ourselves. Sin came into the world through this disobedience, consequently breaking all forms of relationships.

Reconciliation with God

The first thing we need to do is to reconcile with God through His grace. Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." We must trust in His grace to reconcile. This grace was received through the most expensive sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High God. However, we must also continually commit to a life of repentance and obedience. This process is not simply a one-time event but an ongoing journey of faith and growth.

Reconciliation with People

Relationships between people were also broken through this disobedience. Many families today are broken and there is lack of love, respect and understanding between husbands and wives. Spouses secretly cheat on each other. Broken relationships with parents, lack of harmony between siblings and people unable to trust each other are examples that reflect this broken dynamic. To fix this problem we need to practice forgiveness and bear one another's burden as the Bible says in Colossians 3:13, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." In addition, we need to practice loving God and others as Jesus commanded us in Matthew 22:37-39.

Reconciliation with Creation

God commanded us to take care of His creation; instead, we are destroying it. By violating His command, we are making the earth uninhabitable as evidenced by the many natural disasters occurring in the world. This is why we need to reconcile with nature, which will only be possible if we faithfully obey and respect God's commandments. God told Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28, "Be fruitful and multiply and take care of the earth." We also need to remember that everything on earth belongs to God, as Psalms 24:1 says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Therefore, let us reconcile with creation by taking care of the earth.

Reconciliation with ourselves

Sin damages relationships with God, man, and creation. However, sin (especially sexual sin) destroys man himself. Sin causes physical, mental, and spiritual harm to one's self, so reconciliation must begin here. Repentance in daily life is needed, but we need to remember His promise in 1 John 1:9, "He is also faithful and just to forgive us." Therefore, let us live life on purpose, strengthened by our personal relationship with Jesus.

As a believer, I try to give priority to all my relationships. Every day, I repent to God for any wrong doing. I try to take care of nature and love my neighbor. I often ask my wife if I had done anything wrong. I try not to get angry with my children. I do my best to practice reconciliation with all the relationships I do have.

In conclusion, if we want to see the Lord, let us be holy through reconciliation and live a peaceful life, as the Bible says, "Let us make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrew 12: 14

Richard is a pastor, seminary teacher, gospel preacher and catalyst church planter based in Bangladesh. He also mentors and coaches young gospel workers in unreached areas. He married Misty and they have one son, Leroy, and a daughter, Maurice.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Why is reconciliation very important?
2. In which relationships do you think you need to be more careful?
3. How can we reconcile with God, people, creation, and one's self?

| *Read*

Colossians 1:20-22

| *Reflect on This*

"Reconciliation requires changes of heart and spirit, as well as social and economic change. It requires symbolic as well as practical action." - *Malcolm Fraser*

RECONCILIATION NEEDS PATIENCE

DEVOTIONAL 2

How does patience contribute to the process of reconciliation between God and you and you and others?

Living a content and patient life in the Lord isn't an easy task. I believe it is because while doing so, we don't usually get our way in things and must endure with a smile, accepting things that we don't like or choose for ourselves. The need for reconciling something like a failed relationship usually means something went terribly wrong. Things got sidetracked or de-funked and we did nothing to stop the situation earlier on, or maybe we didn't even realize that things were going sideways. Either way, it will take sacrifices to set things back on course.

The passages from God's Word that I would like to reference is 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV and Ephesians 5:25-33 ESV.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 says: "So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the

revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

Ephesians 5:25-33 says: "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. Therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband."

In the 2 Corinthians passage, the Apostle Paul is referencing a painful issue that he wanted God to remove from his life. God's response to him was this was something that he would need to endure. Because in his weakness and endurance of this painful thing, God's endurance shown through Paul's action would bring glory to God's strength in man.

In the Ephesians passage, God tells man that he is to love his wife as Christ loves the church, giving himself up for her better good. What I believe this to mean is as men, our sacrifice for our spouse is to be 100%, not 50/50, 20/30, 60/40, but 100%. We have the responsibility to lose ourselves, our dignity, our stake in things to demonstrate the depth of our devotion to that relationship. We are to give all of ourselves… and then some.

Now to pull these two thoughts together. In the reconciliation of a marital situation, as men of God we are not to expect God to resolve the situation equitably. Though He might do that. Yet we are to expect that we will have to make 100% of the sacrifice to resolve that issue. In doing so, we will demonstrate to our loved one that we will endure whatever it takes for their greater good. By God's grace the spouse will see the sacrifice and recognize it as enduring and/or a love with no boundary. With that said, they maybe won't see it this way but we as men of God will have done what God expects of

us as husbands. The change in her and her actions are in His hands and His work to resolve.

It takes patience and commitment to live this way and it is not easy. It will take every bit of courage that we can muster as a man in today's "Self-First" societies. But I guarantee you that if God chooses to reconcile your situation, he will do it through growing you as a man through the process of strengthening your level of patience and sacrifice.

Bucky is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church of America. A father of 3 children and has been married to his high school sweetheart for 34 years. He has lived in North Carolina all of his life (59 years) mostly in and around the Charlotte area.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. How are you asking God to grow you in patience?
2. In what relationships can you show patience more?
3. How does impatience impede the process of reconciliation?

| *Read*

Ephesians 4:2

| *Reflect on This*

"As we are set free by that love from our own pride and fear, our own greed and arrogance, so we are free in our turn to be agents of reconciliation and hope, or healing and love." - *N. T. Wright*

RECONCILIATION NEEDS TRUST

DEVOTIONAL 3

How does trust contribute to the process of reconciliation between God and you and you and others?

When I was in recovery, the first sponsor I worked with—someone I trusted deeply—left me during a very vulnerable time in my life. I felt frustrated, discouraged, and angry because I couldn't understand why his words didn't align with his actions.

At first, I didn't want reconciliation. He had let me down. He walked away, and it felt easier to simply cut him out of my life. Months later, after much prayer and seeking God's guidance, I was able to reconcile with him. I didn't do it for him per se — I did it for me, to reconcile my heart with God, to be at peace. I didn't want to carry the burden of unforgiveness, anger, or lingering questions. Eventually, I saw him again at the gym. And in that moment, there was no anger, no bitterness—just peace in my heart.

Lessons from Jacob and Esau; Scripture Focus: Genesis 33

Broken relationships are among the most painful experiences we endure. Whether it's a friend, family member, or fellow believer, the wound of betrayal or misunderstanding cuts deep. The story of Jacob and Esau reminds us that even the most fractured relationships can find healing when both parties are willing to walk the difficult path of reconciliation—with God leading the way.

1. Trust – Rebuilding What Was Broken

Jacob and Esau's relationship was shattered by deception. Jacob had cheated Esau out of both his birthright and his blessing (Genesis 27:36). After more than twenty years of separation, the pain still lingered. But in Genesis 33:1–3, we see both men making the first move toward one another. True reconciliation begins with rebuilding trust. Trust is fragile—it takes time to establish and moments to destroy—but when we take courageous steps to reach out, healing can begin.

2. Humility – The Posture of the Heart

Jacob's act of bowing seven times before Esau was more than a cultural gesture—it was a display of humility (Genesis 33:3). He was acknowledging his past wrongs and laying down his pride. Without humility, reconciliation stalls. We must come to the table not to defend ourselves, but to listen, admit where we've erred, and seek peace.

3. Generosity – Giving as an Act of Healing

Jacob brought Esau a generous gift—not to buy forgiveness, but to express his genuine desire to make things right (Gen.esis 33:10–11). Generosity, in this context, isn't just about material things. It's about offering time, attention, and emotional openness. It shows a heart ready to give, not just take.

4. Forgiveness – Letting Go of the Past

When Jacob bowed, Esau ran to meet him, embraced him, and wept with him (Genesis 33:4). In that moment, Esau released years of bitterness. Forgiveness is essential to reconciliation—but it isn't always easy. It means choosing to let go of the right to be angry, even when the hurt is deep. God calls us to forgive as we've been forgiven (Ephesians 4:32).

5. Communication – Building a New Foundation

After their reunion, Jacob and Esau had to talk through logistics, expectations, and their future relationship (Genesis 33:8–16). Reconciliation doesn't end with a hug—it continues through ongoing, honest, and respectful communication. Even after forgiveness is extended, relationships need boundaries, clarity, and trust-building conversations.

A Greater Picture: God's Reconciliation with Us

This story is not only about two brothers—it points to a greater truth. Just as Esau embraced Jacob despite his betrayal, God runs toward us in love even when we've sinned. Through Jesus, He offers complete forgiveness. Sadly, not everyone accepts this gift. Reconciliation with God is offered, but we must receive it in faith.

James is the founder and director of Next Steps Psychotherapy in Ontario, Canada. James became a psychotherapist out of the desire to help others in a Biblical professional way after struggling with addiction for over three decades and has achieved sobriety for over a decade by God's grace.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Who do you need to have an honest conversation with? Ask God to guide your words with grace and truth.
2. Is there someone you've stopped trusting? What step might God be asking you to take toward rebuilding that trust?
3. Have you accepted God's offer of forgiveness and reconciliation through Jesus Christ? If not, He is ready to receive you today.

| *Read*

Hebrews 12:14

| *Reflect on This*

"The Cross is the ultimate evidence that there is no length the love of God will refuse to go in effecting reconciliation." - *R. Kent Hughes*

RECONCILIATION NEEDS COMPROMISE

DEVOTIONAL 4

How does compromise contribute to the process of reconciliation between God and you and you and others?

Reconciliation means to restore a relationship. It is clear that reconciliation is important to God. In the Bible Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21:

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (NIV)

In this scripture we see that God reconciled himself to us through Christ and He calls us to share this message of

reconciliation with our fellow man, to encourage them to reconcile with God. We are also called to reconcile with our fellow humans in Matthew 5:23-24 when it says, "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God." It is clear that God wants us to restore our relationships with Him and with our fellow humans.

The process of reconciliation is not always easy. It is simple, but not easy. If a restoration of a relationship is needed, that means that it has been damaged. Often, this means that one or both individuals in the relationship have been hurt. This is often what puts these parties at odds with each other. In order to reconcile, restore, and resolve the dispute, those involved will need to compromise. In order to achieve reconciliation, something must be sacrificed. Often both sides will have to concede or sacrifice. When we look at the Bible, we see how God took the first step. He compromised first. In Romans 5:9 it says, "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." While we were still sinners, God compromised and sent Christ to die for us, so that we would have the opportunity to be reconciled to Him. Now the choice is ours. Will we choose to be reconciled to God?

In order to reach a compromise, both sides need to concede something. Both sides need to give up or sacrifice something. God sacrificed His only son. And in response, we must surrender our lives as well. For, in Matthew 10:39 it says, "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it." We must surrender our lives, our will, and everything we are to God as our side of the compromise, to achieve reconciliation. We must submit to Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

We must also compromise in order to reconcile with our human relationships. This comes with its own difficulties. When we are in a dispute with another human being, they are not God and so it is difficult to humble ourselves and compromise with them. Also, it is very hard to be the first one to compromise. It goes against our instincts of self-preservation. We do not want to be seen as weak and so we do not want to concede first. But if we are to do as 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 instructs us to do and be ambassadors for Christ, we must demonstrate compromise for the sake of reconciliation. And if we wish to follow Jesus' example, we have to go first.

This area of compromise in the pursuit of reconciliation is one that I am seeking to grow in when it comes to my marriage. I am not very good at seeking reconciliation when I have an argument with my wife. I usually will prefer to let well enough

be alone and hope that the argument will pass without needing to address it. This is my way of keeping the peace from laziness. Instead, I have begun challenging myself, with the urging of my wife, to initiate reconciliation when my relationship with my wife is uneasy. When she is mad at me and I am mad at her, I choose to engage with her by starting a conversation about the problem. Then, I seek to find the areas that led to the dispute that I can change. I have to take ownership of my part in the disagreement. I need to compromise and offer to change what I can to make things better. Then, when I have done this, it is up to my wife to decide if she wants to take responsibility for her part and offer changes that she can make. I cannot force her to do this. The only control promoted in the Bible is self-control. I can only do my part and pray. The other person in a dispute (whether they are a spouse, family member, friend, coworker, or even stranger) has to take control of themselves. I hope that my display of compromise will encourage the other person to do the same, but even if they don't, I need to represent Christ. Because I am Christ's ambassador. And so are you.

Nicholas is a husband and father of two boys. He is passionate about seeing men walk in God-given freedom and purpose. He has been involved with The MST Project in various ways, but in June, 2024 Nicholas moved to Thailand for the purpose of joining The MST Project as staff. He is originally from Maryland, U.S.A.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. What relationships in your life are in need of reconciliation?
2. What compromises do you need to make in order to pursue reconciliation?
3. How is God leading you to be Christ's ambassador and teach others about God's reconciliation with them?

| *Read*

Philippians 2:6-8

| *Reflect on This*

"It is about joining God in the mission of reconciliation by building bridges and bringing down the dividing walls of hostility between individuals and groups." - *John Paul Lederach*

RECONCILIATION NEEDS FORGIVENESS

DEVOTIONAL 5

How does forgiveness contribute to the process of reconciliation between God and you and you and others?

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you." - Lewis B. Smedes

Have you ever been mad at God? Most of us have. Many years ago, I was praying during an altar call at a conference about God the Father's love. As the speaker talked about the Father lovingly placing us in our mother's womb, thirty years of pain and terror came up in my heart. "God, of all the wombs You could have put me in, You chose that one?!!!" I was extremely angry that God the Father put me into the womb of a mother who sexually abused me throughout my childhood. Waves of rage came up in my heart.

God the Father is very different from our earthly parents. Many of us weren't allowed to show any negative emotions toward them. God the Father is kind. He invites us to share our hearts with Him even if we are angry. In Isaiah 1:18, God invites us to "settle the matter" with Him. Settling the matter implies that we have a disagreement. Instead of being silent about our disagreements and facing severe punishment and shame if we admit we are upset, God the Father invites us to share our hearts – including our disagreements – with Him. As we open our hearts to Him, we begin to understand Him in deeper ways than we could have ever imagined. He begins to heal our hearts and free us from our sin. He makes us more like Him.

I remember lying at that altar during that Father's Love conference over twenty years ago. Although my heart felt rage towards God, I also felt love and acceptance from Him. He didn't punish me for being mad at Him. He listened. He cared. He knew the pain of the abuse that was underneath the anger. He wanted to heal that pain. After 45 minutes of pouring out my heart to the Father and sensing His love toward me, I was ready to surrender the anger I had toward Him. I still didn't understand why those bad things happened to me, I just knew that the Father loved me and He was the only one who could heal my heart. It's hard to stay angry at a Father who shows such love.

I remember one other precious detail about that time at the altar. I wasn't alone. While I was loudly pouring out my pain, there was a kind, gentle person placing his hand on my shoulder. His silent prayers helped me to understand that the Father loved me even when I was angry. This compassionate stranger was letting the Holy Spirit move through himself to help me be reconciled to the Father. That showed me that even though we can be deeply wounded by unsafe people, the Lord can also bring deep healing through safe people in the Body of Christ. This revelation helped me heal from other deep wounds that I received from people at other times in my life. As we are reconciled to God, we are better able to be reconciled to people. The Father can help us learn to forgive and show us who to trust. As we grow in grace, we can become ministers of reconciliation.

Are you angry at God? He invites you to share your anger and pain with Him and let Him carry it for you. Jesus took your sins upon Himself when He was on the cross. He also took the painful effects of the sins that other people committed against you on Himself. He did that so He could heal your heart. Take a bold step today to confess your anger towards God. As you surrender your anger, you'll understand the Father's true heart toward you. A heart of compassion. A heart of love. A heart of reconciliation.

Dan is the Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministries of Michigan. He is an ordained minister and licensed professional counselor specializing in helping people overcome sexual brokenness, sexual abuse, and trauma. Dan has been in the ministry for over thirty years and lives with his wife, Marianne, in Metro Detroit, Michigan, USA.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Have you ever been angry at God?
2. Has anger ever led you deeper into sexual sin?
3. What did you tell Him about your anger, or what do you want to tell Him?

| *Read*

2 Corinthians 5:19

| *Reflect on This*

"Although the church accomplishes many tasks, its only message to the world is the gospel of Christ. Everything else we do is merely an extension of that primary goal. The gospel we offer the lost is superior to every worldly philosophy. Never outdated or in need of correction, it is always sufficient to meet humanity's greatest need: reconciliation with the Creator." - *Charles Stanley*

RECONCILIATION IS A COMMAND

DEVOTIONAL 6

It may be easy to think that reconciliation is a choice based on how we feel, but how might our relationships be different if we saw reconciliation as a command?

We all have an innate desire to make friends, marry and start a family. Abraham Maslow, a well-known phycologist, described the hierarchy of the four most important human needs and the need to belong is one of them. Desiring families, friends and being part of a community for us as humans is God's idea. After God created this beautiful earth, and created Adam, He gave Adam a job and provided him with everything he needed. But there was still something else missing, which was a partner he could love, work together with and create a family with. God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him (Gen. 2:18)." So, God made Eve from Adam's ribs, blessed them both and said, "be fruitful and multiply." Loving each other, working together and creating family together made them complete.

Humans are created to be with and have relationship with one another. In America, the greatest punishment for a criminal is solitary confinement, where he/she is locked up in a tiny room by him/her self with no one to see and talk to for days and even months. One of the greatest blessings in life is relationship while one of the greatest curses is being alone.

We all need to treasure the relationships we have. It's more valuable than money, fame or any accomplishment. No one says on his /her deathbed, "I wish I would have spent more time working, more effort getting famous or having fun." No, things they usually say include, "I wish I would have cared for my spouse better, spent more time with my kids, making memories and developing a good relationship with them." However, the reality is, many marriages end up in divorce, leaving family members hurt, bitter and angry. Arguments between friends and co-workers, misunderstandings between church members, and fights with neighbors is a common story in this fallen world of ours.

Even though we desire to create and maintain good relationships, our sinful nature inside of us, along with Satan's temptation, makes it difficult to do so. After an argument or misunderstanding that leaves us bitter, we try to reconcile but sometimes to no avail, leaving the relationship not the same as

before. Unfortunately, many give up trying.

However, the good news is that reconciliation is possible through Jesus Christ. God sent Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, into human world to reconcile people back to God and to each other. By grace through faith in His redemptive work of the cross and resurrection, peace with God is possible. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Thank God, our Savior has taken away the sin, the main barrier that separate us, in order that we may be reconciled back to God. And those who are reconciled to God, God has called to not only reconcile with others but to become an ambassador of reconciliation, preaching the message of reconciliation. Jesus is our mediator of reconciliation. Paul says, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:5)

If reconciliation is possible because God has opened the way for us, how then can we reconcile? There are important truths to remember.

First, if you want to reconcile, mend and retore relationship with others, you need to reconcile with God first. Your relationship with God, good or bad, affects relationship with others. Adam and Eve's broken relationship with God led to family disfunction. The case of Cain's jealousy and murder of Able was a direct effect of initial breakdown of relationship with God.

When a person is restored to peace with God, anger, bitterness and hatred can turn into forgiveness, love and mercy. You can even make friends out of enemies. Through the love, forgiveness and mercy you have received from God, you can mend broken relationships with others.

I can recall when my reconciliation with God led me to reconciling with my father, with whom I didn't have a good relationship. My rebellion during my teenage years led me far away from God and detached from my father. God in His mercy saved me and restored my relationship with Him and with my father. I can see myself in the story of the prodigal son.

When the prodigal son realized his sins and decided to go back to his father's house, the father welcomed him and restored everything he had lost, most importantly the relationship with his father. I was the prodigal son that came back to God. God not only restored my relationship to himself but to my father as well. When I came back to God, suddenly, I felt sorry for my rebellion against my father, as well as to forgive and let go of all the feelings of discontent and bitterness I had towards him. My reconciliation with God had directly affected my reconciliation with my father.

Secondly, forgive others and ask for forgiveness. Unforgiveness is a major obstacle of reconciliation. You may feel like you have the right to be angry because either they have said something negative to you, broken a promise, owed you something or did something terrible. But ultimately, if you don't forgive, not only does it affect your relationship with that person, but it can harm you personally in many ways, including physical illness, and emotional and mental health. The truth is, if you are a Christian, you have no right to be angry or bitter. Why? Because Christ has forgiven you of greater wrong than what anyone could have done to you. When you remember how much mercy, love and forgiveness you have received from God, you can forgive others. That's why scripture says, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13)". In fact, if you don't forgive, God can't forgive you either (Matthew 6:14-15).

In addition, if you have wronged anyone, go and ask for forgiveness. Humbling yourself, admitting your wrong and asking forgiveness is not a sign of weakness but strength. Don't focus on the wrong they have done to you, only focus on the wrong you have done to them. If you admit you're wrong and ask for forgiveness, your humble gesture may stir their reaction to ask you for forgiveness as well, resulting in reconciliation.

Lastly, be open and honest about your feelings and thoughts without hiding anything. Express how you feel in response to their actions without telling them how they should feel. They should not feel any judgement from you. Give them space and the right to respond according to how they feel without imposing anything on them. Honesty and truth will lead to healing and reconciliation.

Scott is a husband and dad to four children. He has been a missionary to Thailand since 2016, doing church planting and teaching in seminary. He enjoys spending time with family, riding motorcycles and eating durian.

| *Discussion Questions*

1. Is there anyone you need to reconcile with?
2. Are there any things you need to forgive or ask forgiveness for?
3. How can God's love, mercy and forgiveness toward you affect your efforts in reconciling with others?

| *Read*

Colossians 3:13

| *Reflect on This*

"The worst reconciliation is better than the best divorce." - *Miguel de Cervantes*

LOOKING BACK...

DEVOTIONALS 1-6

During this connect group cycle, we pray that you have been challenged, encouraged, and inspired as you pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity in your life. We want to encourage you to now take some time to reflect on the last six devotionals and see how you can consistently apply the many truths that have been shared and that you have learned in your life.

Devotional 1

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 2

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 3

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 4

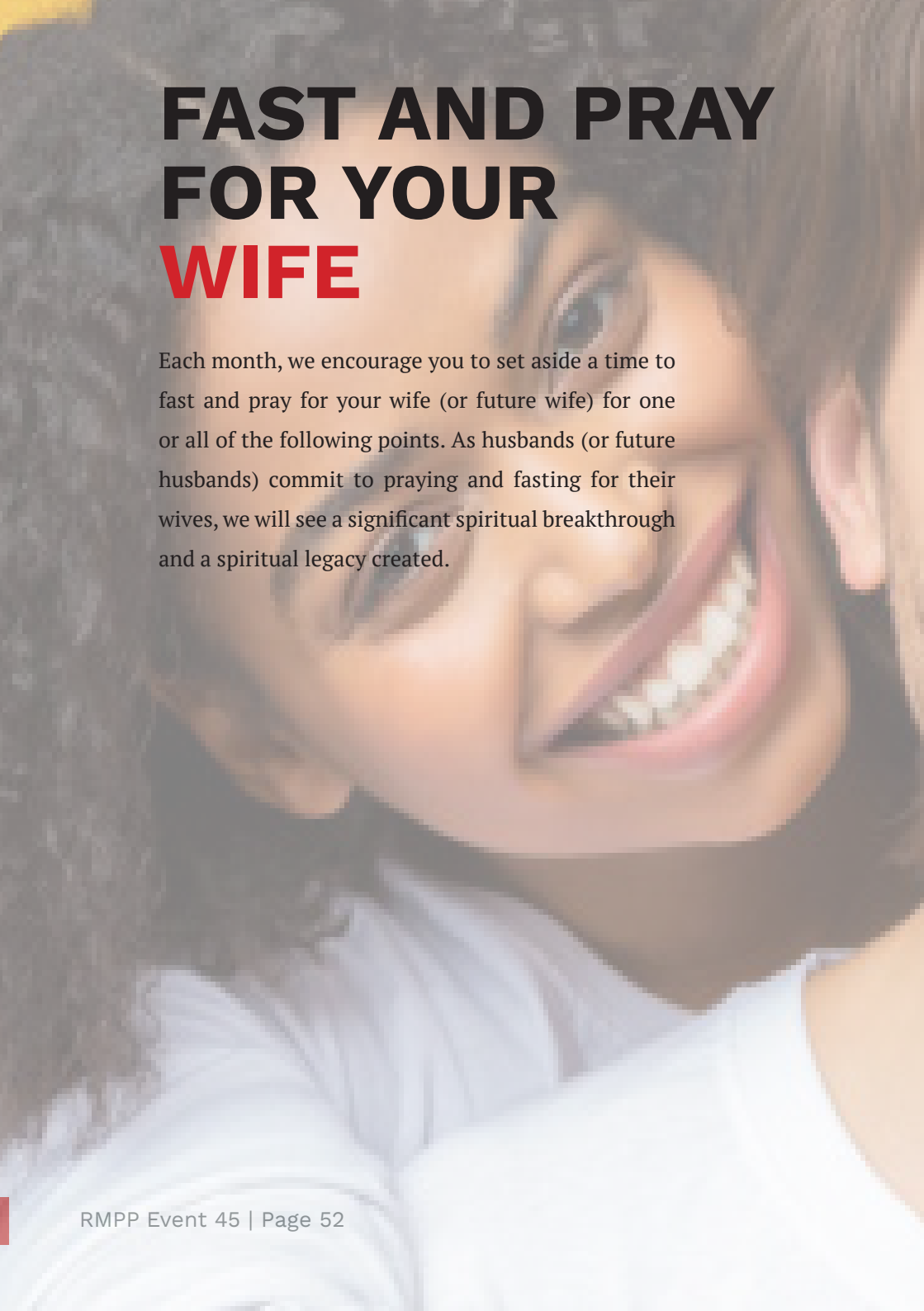
What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 5

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.

Devotional 6

What are 1-2 truths from this devotional that you would like to reflect on from time to time? What is one aspect from this devotional that you will commit to applying in your life? Invite one other person to hold you accountable in this area.



FAST AND PRAY FOR YOUR WIFE

Each month, we encourage you to set aside a time to fast and pray for your wife (or future wife) for one or all of the following points. As husbands (or future husbands) commit to praying and fasting for their wives, we will see a significant spiritual breakthrough and a spiritual legacy created.

Serve Her

My wife is not a project I need to work on or change; instead, I want to serve her better as her husband, lover, and friend.

Love Her

I want to love and support my wife better so that our marriage reflects Christ's love for the Church.

Honor Her

I want to honor my wife's emotions better by being a safe place where she can freely share her feelings without my trying to solve every problem.

Respect Her

I want to respect my wife better by learning to appreciate the unique talents, gifts, and perspectives she has. Couples should complement one another and not compete with each other.

Listen to Her

I want to be a better listener. I want to listen to my wife with my heart and not just my ears.

INTRODUCING RMPP

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

| *What Is RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity (RMPP) is a community of men who are committed to growing in integrity, purity and wholeness through relevant teachings, accountability, mentoring and honest dialogue. You might not be sure that you really need to be part of a community like this because you don't struggle with compulsive addictions or sexual sin. While it is very important for many men to focus primarily on resisting sexual temptation and sin, we want to inspire and challenge you to pursue more. Although growing in purity is a big part of the vision for RMPP, it's much more than that. It's also learning about deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment with like-minded brothers. We believe that when we invite Him into these areas, He will extend His healing hand and bring about wholeness. Max Lucado says this very well.

EST. 2014

"Our Savior kneels down and gazes upon the darkest acts of our lives. But rather than recoil in horror, he reaches out in kindness and says, "I can clean that if you want."

We are men who are not willing to settle for a life of spiritual mediocrity. We choose to relentlessly pursue greater depths of purity and wholeness for ourselves and for our families. Welcome to the RMPP community.

| *How does RMPP support the local church?*

RMPP does not intend to replace or represent a church; it only creates a safe place for men who want to stay active in their own church community. When a man joins the RMPP community he joins other like-minded men who desire to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. He is choosing to walk out in greater honesty and vulnerability. He is choosing to pursue purity in all aspects of his life. Aspects such as deep-rooted insecurities, developing proper work

boundaries, embracing our identity in Christ, confronting fears and anxiety, expressing ourselves emotionally in a healthy way, and pursuing holiness in a safe environment.

We then pray that as these men grow in greater maturity that they would influence their families. That they would impact their communities and their work places, and that they would be an example for other men in their home church. We believe that as men take hold of the awesome and holy call to live lives that reflect Christ, that the church will be inspired and the world will take notice.

| *What happens next?*

If you have ever attended a men's retreat, you probably remember being deeply impacted by worship, challenged by teaching, and being in community with many men who shared your excitement and enthusiasm for growth and change. A few weeks or months down the road, the gathering became a distant memory as you settled back into the routines of daily life. We don't want to create just another mountain top experience. We are committed to creating a long-term mentoring relationship for everyone who attends an event. That is why you are holding this devotional book in your hands. As you flip through these pages you will see that there devotionals with corresponding

questions. Each devotional is meant to solidify the teaching of the event by encouraging and challenging you, as well as helping to stimulate discussion through thought provoking questions, verses and quotes.

| *Who writes the devotionals?*

Christian men from around the world have written these devotionals and have overcome real issues in their life through God's grace, goodness, mercy and love. We hope and pray that their testimonies and stories inspire, challenge and point you to Christ.

| *What are RMPP connect groups?*

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue both purity and wholeness within an environment of peer support and encouragement. The journey to greater purity and wholeness is a journey that involves inviting other men to walk alongside of you. It is a place where you can share your prayer requests, victories, and struggles and where you can be heard, prayed for and challenged to grow in all areas of life. A connect group is designed to be a support system for you for as long as you want.

During your time in a connect group you will be:

***Challenged*:** You will be challenged to grow in your love for Biblical truth. The men in your group will challenge you to grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word thereby enabling you to stand firm in the midst of life's trials.

***Encouraged*:** You will be encouraged to persevere when life, work, and numerous responsibilities may seem overwhelming. The men in your group will support you through prayer, encouragement and a listening ear.

***Inspired*:** You will be inspired to pursue greater spiritual growth and Christ-likeness. While pursuing Christ-likeness may not always be easy, it will also be worth it. The men in your group will be there to inspire you on that journey.

***Accountable*:** The men in your group, as well as your group leader, will support you and hold you accountable as you pursue greater freedom and victory. Be assured that whatever you share in your group will be strictly confidential.

| *When are the events held?*

RMPP events are held online 4x a year in February, May, August, and November.

| *Who can attend?*

RMPP events are open to all men worldwide.

| *What about privacy?*

Because of the sensitive nature of RMPP events, video or audio recording by participants is not allowed. Also, details of personal testimonies are not to be published via email, social media, or in any other form. Thank you for contributing to a safe and secure environment that helps build honesty and vulnerability.

| *Who started RMPP?*

Real Men Pursuing Purity was founded in 2014 and is an initiative of The MST Project.

MEET THE TEAM

THE MST GLOBAL BOARD

Christian Lenty is the founder and director of The MST Project, a ministry that seeks to mentor men into a pursuit of sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity. Christian has lived in Thailand for over 21 years and resides in Bangkok with his wife.

Rex DeKoning is the 60-year old husband and father of a large family. A former nurse and pastor, he now works in Thailand with New Counseling Service as a counselor. Rex has experienced great healing of addictive behaviors after he confessed everything and began to live an accountable life. Rex is highly motivated to inspire other men to seek out a mentor, as it has helped him to walk freely, build honesty and vulnerability.

Nick Chilver is married and is part of a blended family containing 6 children. He is grateful for the people God has brought into his life and across his path. And as he continues to learn to better reflect Him, it is his prayer that God will grant

him the privilege of helping others on the path to freedom and into the Light. He resides in Thailand with his wife.

Mike B. Wood is married to his wonderful wife of 28 years. He is a Pastoral Counselor in the area of sexual recovery therapy. He is a man in process, passionate about bringing men together to share life together. This is where we study God's Word together and share the challenges we face. This inspires us to accept what God has freely given us: His love, mercy, grace and acceptance. He and his wife have lived in Thailand for 18 years.

Steve Odera has been happily married to Liz for the last 43 years and they have two wonderful adult children. After serving as a pastor in Bangkok, Thailand, for seven years, Steve returned to his native Kenya in 2023, where he and Liz are involved in the family enrichment ministry – their sweet spot - in their local church.

EVENT DATES AND RESOURCES

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

| *2025 Event Dates and Zoom ID*

Mark your calendars, plan to attend, and invite a friend to one or all of the events below.

Event 46: August 16
Event 47: November 15
Zoom ID for all events: 561 433 8821

| *The Pursuit of Purity*

The book, The Pursuit of Purity, is meant to transform the way you think and live, putting you on a lifetime path of purity and wholeness leading to consistent victory.

***W*:** themstproject.com/pathway-to-purity
***E*:** hello@themstproject.com

THANK YOU

| *With Gratitude*

We would like say thank you to the following for their contribution to RMPP.

Financial Donors

Thank you for generously providing funding that allows for RMPP events, seminars, and translation of materials.

Devotional Authors

Thank you for writing devotionals that inspire, encourage and challenge each of us to pursue greater sexual purity, spiritual wholeness and Christlike maturity.

| *Scriptural Oversight Team*

RMPP has a Scriptural Oversight Team consisting of several pastors from local churches that review all devotionals for theological integrity.

CONNECT GROUPS

RMPP connect groups are a safe place for men to pursue sexual purity, spiritual wholeness, and Christlike maturity within an environment of peer support, encouragement, and accountability.

Connect groups are held worldwide on a weekly basis. To inquire about joining a group or to find out more information please email **hello@themstproject.com**.

If you are interested in starting an RMPP connect group at your church, men's ministry, Bible study, college group, etc., please contact us. We'd love to support you and have the resources to help you.

JOIN ONE
TODAY!

MAY 2025