

### **Gospel-Driven Reconciliation**

*“How gospel aids counselors in leading those in conflict towards reconciliation.”*

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Counselors are often tasked with helping individuals resolve conflict. The process of reconciliation can be challenging and tumultuous. This seminar examines how the gospel not only serves as the foundation for reconciliation but how it empowers those who are struggling to be reconciled to one another.

#### **THREE STORIES:**

- Bill and Nancy
- Sarah and her parents
- Sue and Lisa

#### **QUESTIONS:**

What do each of these stories have in common?

What do you do as a Christian when one of these individuals comes to you with one of the problems presented?

What do you say to them? Where do you begin when you are counseling people who have conflict with one another?

- I. **People Experience Conflict** [Genesis 2-3; Romans 8; James 4:1, 11; Ephesians 4:1-3, 25-27; Titus 3:1-2; Philippians 4:2-3]
- II. **The Gospel Offers Hope for People In the Midst of Conflict** [2 Corinthians 5:11-21]

- A. **Christ's love for believers is to be the motivation for our actions [5:14]**
  
- B. **Christ demonstrated his love through immeasurable sacrifice [5:14-15]**
  
- C. **Christ's immeasurable sacrifice has given the believer a new life [5:15-17]**
  
- D. **Christ's immeasurable sacrifice has given the believer a new life by reconciling us to God [5:18-19]**

**RECONCILIATION:**

Reestablishing proper interpersonal relations after these have been disrupted or broken.  
To make things right with one another.

Reconciliation implies that a disruption has occurred in friendly relations because of presumed or real provocation and therefore overt behavior designed to remove hostility and restore original friendly relations is necessary.

To reconcile is to end a relation of enmity and to substitute for it one of peace and goodwill.

- E. **Our reconciliation has made us ambassadors who carry the message of reconciliation [5:19-21]**

**What does all this mean for us as counselors?**

### **III. The Gospel Motivates Us Towards Reconciliation**

- A. Reconciliation is not an optional pursuit
- B. Reconciliation is to be grounded in our relationship with Christ
- C. Reconciliation is possible

### **IV. The Gospel Instructs Us In Reconciliation**

- A. Because of the reconciling work of Christ I take the first step
- B. Because of the reconciling work of Christ I don't need the other person to change
- C. Because of the reconciling work of Christ I believe we can both change
- D. Because of the reconciling work of Christ I will seek out the good of the other person
- E. Because of the reconciling work of Christ I will not try and change the other