



Introduction: The Big Idea in today's sermon by Pastor Paul Clark is that enduring family strength is directly related to our commitment to forgiveness and reconciliation.

1. Paul started with the idea that all relationships are imperfect and need reconciliation along the way. Do you resonate with that idea or not? How does it relate to your family relationships? Do you have some that are especially problematic?
2. Many counselors say it's easier to reconcile with friends than family. Discuss why you think this is true or why you disagree.
3. Paul said that love provides the motivation and power to pursue reconciliation. In what ways does this view differ or conflict with the world's view of reconciliation?
4. Is it appropriate to consider boundaries when reconciling? What kinds of boundaries come to your mind? Can you think of other scripture passages that speak to this?
5. Does the severity of the offense have an impact on your ability to forgive? Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does Jesus answer that question? What makes Matthew 18:35 so difficult?
6. Paul said misunderstandings happen as a result of imperfect people connected to other imperfect people. Discuss different kinds of family misunderstandings you've seen or experienced. Can you identify any common threads or themes?
7. Read Colossians 3:13- 14: The words "bear with" suggest that reconciliation can involve more than a one-time act of forgiveness. Discuss examples of where you've seen reconciliation take place over a period of time. What role did/does persistence play in successful restoration?
8. Paul said pride makes reconciliation difficult. Discuss why you think this is true. Share where you've seen pride act as a roadblock to reconciliation. What either did or might have led to a peaceful resolution?

Conclusion: The most important question is the most challenging one: Are there any relationships in your life that need reconciliation? If so, what's preventing it from taking place? What would it take to reconcile the relationship?