



HANOVERDALE CHURCH

Nehemiah

Serving God by Putting Away Differences

DEVOTIONALS FOR THE WEEK OF:

March 8, 2026

This week we dig more deeply into how to forgive one another Biblically and what reconciliation should look like.

Monday: Matthew 18:15-16

What are the three stages of reconciliation? Does a person have to go through all three? What are the parameters for going through all three? Why is it important to confront sin? What happens if a person repents right away? What happens if they do not reconcile? Most pastors recommend that if it requires that the second stage is required that the two others that you take should be spiritual leaders like elders or deacons. Why is it necessary to establish evidence? Taking it to the church is a serious move. Why should the problem end up at the door of the church? Most church leaders agree that that stage means the smallest group of decision makers possible. Why would it be advisable to stand up at a Sunday morning public worship service to bring condemnation? What is the purpose of a period of reconciliation? (Hint: think of the word just mentioned). Are you at odds with anyone? Go to them and sort it out today.

Tuesday: Matthew 18:17-20; Matthew 10:5-6; Matthew 15:21-28

What does it mean that someone who refuses to repent and be reconciled is considered a Gentile or tax collector? What did Jewish people think about Gentiles and tax collectors? How did Jesus treat them? Should we completely shun an unrepentant sinner, not letting them participate with us at church until they repent? Should we welcome them to come but not serve them communion since that is reserved for people who are in a right relationship with God? What would be a comparison today? Shunning someone today is not as drastic as it was in Bible days. People can just go to another church, unlike Bible days when there might only be one church in a community. Why was it a harsh sentence to be shunned by the Christian community? What might that mean today? In what way and for what purpose might it be appropriate for a church leader to have interaction with such an unrepentant person?

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15; Titus 3:9-11

What was Paul teaching us about those who profess Christ but refuse to repent and be reconciled? Should we consider them to be evil? We are told to warn them not as an enemy but as a what? Why are we to not have anything more to do with them? Who did Paul deliver such a person to? Why? What does that mean to you? What are we to do with people who refuse to repent and be reconciled?

Thursday: Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Matthew 18:21-35

What does Jesus teach us in the Lord's prayer? What happens to us if we are not willing to forgive others who have sinned against us? What is true when we do forgive? Does God expect us to forgive others? How many times am I to forgive someone? Is there ever a time when I give up forgiving others? Why is forgiveness such a big deal? Today, choose to forgive that person that you need to to forgive.

Friday: 1 Timothy 1:20; 1 Corinthians 5:5; Hebrews 12:5-11

What is the worst case scenario with someone who refuses to reconcile? Why did Paul hand someone over to Satan? What should you do with your feelings of being 'mean or unloving toward the person if it is decided to excommunicate someone? But what does God's Word say? What is the eventual goal of discipline? Given this, is discipline mean hearted or loving a person? Consider to be willing to submit your feelings as to what is and is not loving to the authority and sufficiency of God's Word, for His glory, the good of the church, and the ultimate joy of those whom we love.

Saturday: Romans 12:17-21; Luke 17:3; Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 7:16

When we forgive someone does it just all go away? What is usually needed to regain trust and to restore a relationship? What is needed to be totally back to a normal relationship? What might be needed beyond merely saying the words, "I forgive you"? If you are feeling anger and resentment toward a person, go to God and confess it. Ask God to release you from the sin. What if you sense that the person did not really mean it, or that there is resentment or anger for having been caught? It may require a mediator to help work through the brokenness of a relationship. Ask God to give you true repentance and forgiveness.