

Prayerfully consider these Scriptures as you seek the Lord about how to work through a relational difference -- with Him only or with a face-to-face conversation with the other person:

1. THE CALL TO FORGIVE

- Begin the process of forgiveness by dealing first with your own heart before the Lord.
- Name It—attitudes and actions that hurt you &/or the relationship. For example:
 - Attitude of selfishness, superiority, competition, or jealousy
 - Harsh and mean-spirited words or “the silent treatment”
 - Habitual disregard expressed through distance or lateness
 - Sending a message of being irritated or angry
 - Not communicating in a way that says, “Your feelings matter.”
 - Other
- Grieve It—Ask the Lord what it looks like to grieve with integrity:
 - Grieve for the pain and rejection you experienced
 - Grieve over your own sinful responses toward the offender (anger, hatred, spirit of separation, judgment, resentment, etc.)
 - Grieve the loss of what could have been had not the enemy robbed a measure of connection and intimacy between you
 - Grieve for your loved one, their history and how it has negatively impacted your relationship and, in fact, all their relationships
 - Other
- Forgive It
 - Calculate the cost to you emotionally, physically, relationally, etc.
 - Choose to forgive as an act of your will and obedience to God
- Remember that your choice to give was heard and accomplished by God. However, to experience complete resolution, it may mean revisiting this situation in the future.

2. TO GO OR NOT TO GO

- Pray for God's wisdom about whether or not to confront vs. dealing with your own heart before the Lord: James 1:5 NIV -- If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
- Check your love and peace quotients. These can determine the need to go or not go:
 - 1 Pt 4:8 AMP -- Above all things have intense *and* unfailing love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins [forgives and disregards the offenses of others].
 - Col 3:15 AMP -- Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise].
 - Ask God if you are free to let the offense go without confronting the other person.
 - Confrontation is indicated if you can't move forward in peace and love without it.
- Consider previous interactions with this person. If you have already covered this ground with them, let these Scriptures guide you:
 - Walls of defensiveness, blame, or silence do not bode well for a better outcome: Prov 10:10 MSG -- An evasive eye is a sign of trouble ahead, but an open, face-to-face meeting results in peace
 - Evidence of repentance is a key factor determining how to move forward: Mt 3:8 AMP – Produce fruit that is consistent with repentance [demonstrating new behavior that proves a change of heart, and a conscious decision to turn away from sin]
 - If escalation is possible, proceed as the Spirit leads: Matt 10:16 -- I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves

3. WHEN YOU GO

- If God has led you to have a face-to-face conversation, ponder these principles first.
- Connect with God first allowing Him to uncover anything and everything that needs to be forgiven in you: Ps 32:5 AMP -- I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord [continually unfolding the past till all is told]—then You [instantly] forgave me the guilt *and* iniquity of my sin.
- Be vulnerable, letting them know your hurt in order to preserve the relationship: Mt 18:15 NLT-- If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back
- Go with a heart of reconciliation if you know that someone has an offense toward you,: Mt 5:23-24 NLT-- If you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.
- Pray for repentance from HS that will give both parties a God-view: 2 Tim 2:25 NIV-- God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth
- Appropriate God setting others' interests ahead of your own: Phil 2:3-4 ESV-- In humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

4. HOW TO GO

- Use these principles when you go to negotiate relational differences with another person.
- Go in private without speaking about it to others: Prov 17:9-- He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.
- Go to restore peace: Rom 12:18 NAS-- If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men
- Go quickly but choose your time wisely to provide best for a positive outcome: Eccl 3:1, 7-- There is a time for everything...a time to be silent and a time to speak.
- Keep your comments current addressing the present situation vs. dredging up past offenses: Prov 10:12-- Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs.
- Do not judge or accuse: It requires omniscience to know the motives of someone's heart and the heart is God's Holy Ground:
 - Jer 17:9 MSG-- The heart is hopelessly dark and deceitful, a puzzle that no one can figure out. But I, God, search the heart and examine the mind.
 - Matt 7:2 NIV-- For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
- Admit and take responsibility for anything you did or didn't do that negatively impacted the other person: Matt 7:3-- Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?
- Speak the truth in love saying only what is beneficial: Eph 4:29 NLT-- Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.
- Listen attentively so that the other person feels that you've heard them: James 1:19 MSG-- Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear.
- Avoid defensiveness even if you feel misunderstood or if things get heated: 1 Pt 2:23-- When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, he made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly.
- Be appreciative, thanking the person for taking the time to invest in you and in the relationship: Ps 141:5 NIV--Let a righteous man strike me--it is a kindness; let him rebuke me--it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it.