

SEEKING FORGIVENESS

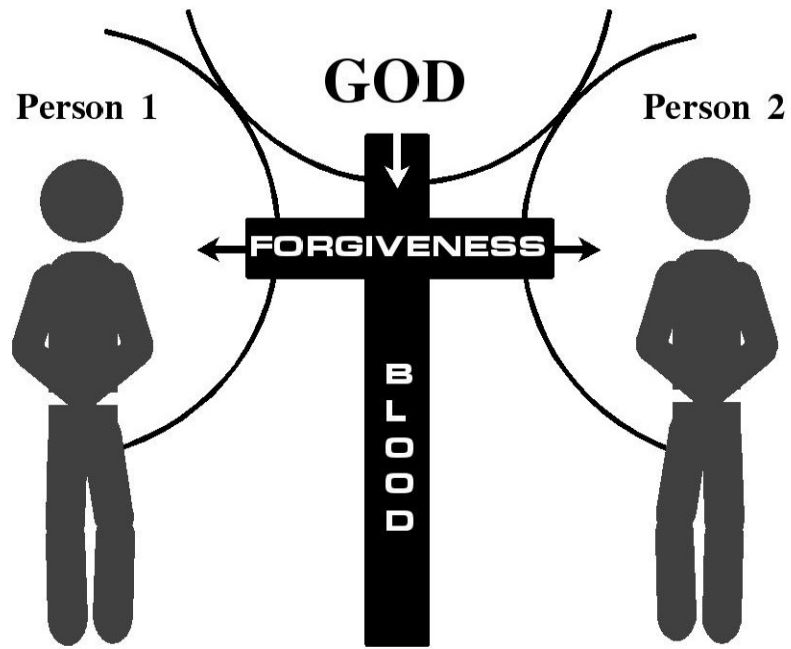
Leave your offering
there before the altar, and
go . . . be reconciled to
your brother.

Matthew 5:24

Most people are aware of those who offend them. However, there are times when I am the offender. Even as I go through the process of extending forgiveness, I am pricked by the Holy Spirit where I am also at fault. How important is it that I go and make it right? Do I put it off until I see that person again? Do I say, “Well, that happened so long ago, that person probably doesn’t even remember”?

What does God’s word say about seeking forgiveness? When should I do it? How do I do it without causing more pain for myself or the other person? These are some of the questions to be answered during this lesson.

SEEK
FORGIVE



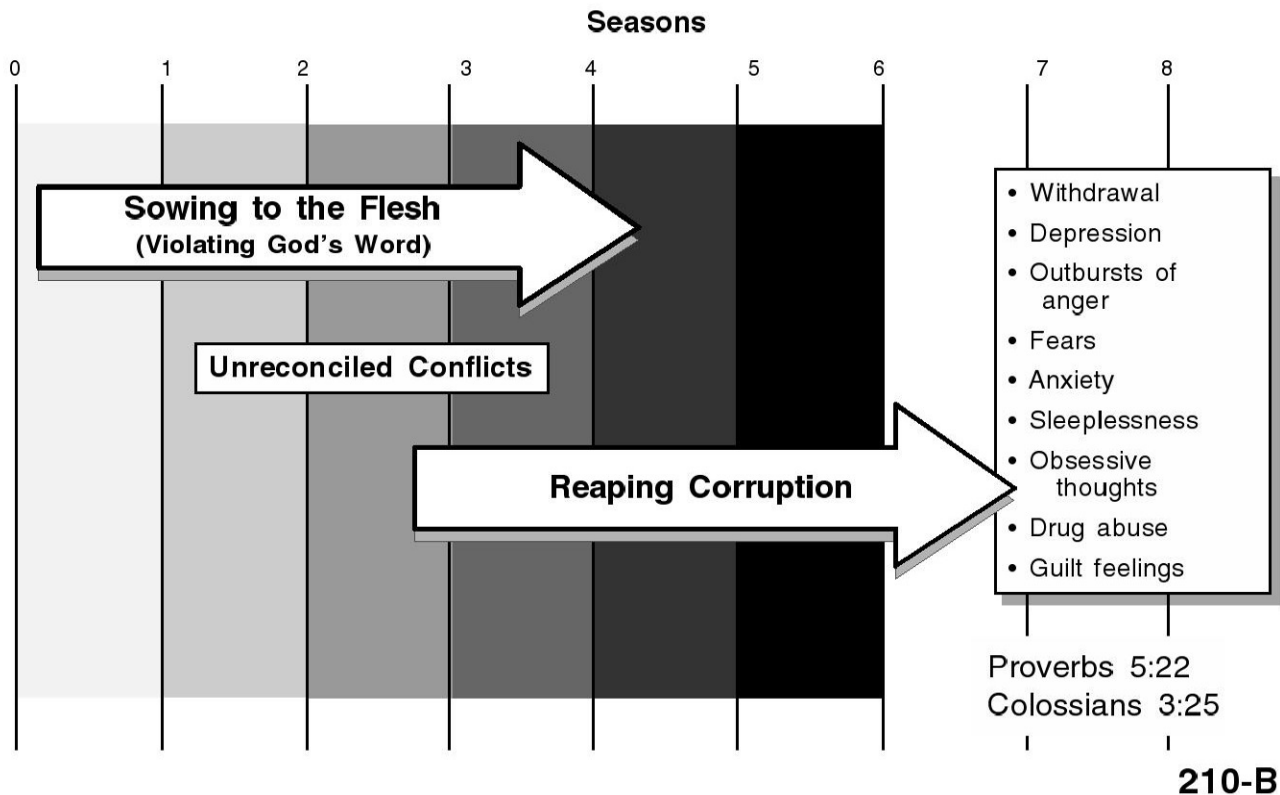
1 John 1:7
Acts 24:16
Rom. 12:18

210-A

NOTES

FLESH—SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:7-9



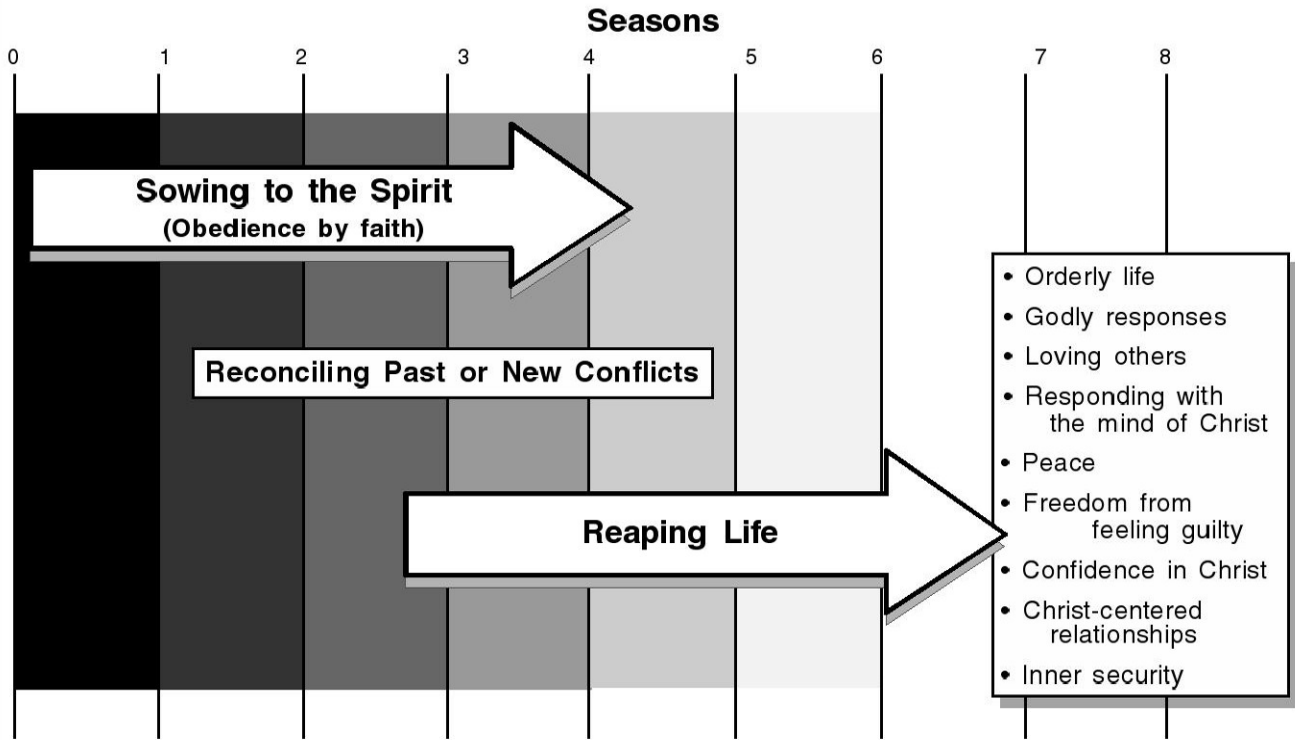
NOTES

Laws of Sowing and Reaping:

1. You reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7).
2. You reap more than you sow (Hosea 8:7).
3. You reap in proportion to what you sow (2 Cor. 9:6).
4. You reap in a different season (Gal. 6:9).

SPIRIT—SOWING AND REAPING

Galatians 6:7-9



210-C

NOTES

SEEKING FORGIVENESS



1 John 1:9
Matthew 5:23-24

210-D

NOTES

SEEKING FORGIVENESS PROCESS

“If therefore you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.”

Matthew 5:23-24

Seeking forgiveness is honestly “seeing” how I hurt another person by my words or actions. Then I go to that person and say I was wrong for what I did and ask that person to forgive me. Before I go I need to forgive anything I am holding against that person.

Twelve Keys to Seeking Forgiveness

1. Reexamine what seeking forgiveness is NOT.

It is NOT “apologizing” or “being sorry” for what I have done.
It is NOT trying to “make up” to someone or be nice to someone I have hurt.
2. Reminded by the Holy Spirit. Don’t be continually searching myself.
3. Remembered by the other person.

Don’t seek forgiveness for jealous, lustful, or angry thoughts or feelings.
Exceptions would be when I have stolen something or slandered someone’s name.
4. Respond quickly.
5. Review the offense clearly.

It may be helpful to have a pastor or counselor help me see how I have offended the other person.
6. Rehearse only as much detail as necessary.
7. Reject any defense, excuses, or blame.
8. Rapidly move to ask, “I was wrong regarding _____, will you forgive me?”
9. Right timing is vital.
10. Request in person.

Not if I was involved in an immoral relationship.
Use the telephone if the person lives out of town.
11. Refuse to write a letter.

It could be kept.
There is no sense of closure.
It may fall into the wrong hands.
12. Restitution needs to be offered if something was stolen.

210-E

REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS

OFFENDER needs to

- ▶ listen to other person's hurts, needs, and desires.
- ▶ prayerfully and practically care for the other person's very life.
- ▶ go out of his/her way to demonstrate I am trustworthy.
 - ▶ make restitution and more.
Numbers 5:7
 - ▶ go over and above what would seem to be obvious or expected.



OFFENDED needs to

- ▶ forgive the offender. *2 Cor. 2:7-8*
- ▶ bless those who curse you.
- ▶ pray. ▶ love. ▶ do good.
- ▶ turn cheek. ▶ give. ▶ do unto them.
Luke 6:27-32
- ▶ keep no record of wrong.
- ▶ always trust God.
- ▶ always hope.
 - ▶ always love. *1 Cor. 13:5-7*
- ▶ be willing to let the other fail, which could include hurting you again.

BOTH need to

- ▶ thank the Lord for His ministry of reconciliation.
- ▶ pray for and/or with the other person.
- ▶ be willing to have a relationship with the other person.

210-F

NOTES

REVIEW

- It is impossible to live with people and not hurt or offend them.
- As soon as you feel the direction of the Lord to seek forgiveness from another person, it is time to act.
- It is a very humbling thing to go to another person and say, “I was wrong. Will you forgive me?”
- This is essential to live with impossible people.
- Seeking forgiveness from anyone you offend should be a way of life.
- After reconciliation, you need to rebuild the relationship.



NOTES