



RIFTS AND RECONCILIATION • PART II

CRAIG REES

BIG IDEA:

Rather than reject his family, Jesus reset his relationship with them. May the example of Jesus become our experience.

KEY VERSES:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Romans 12:3

Ephesians 4:26-27
Philippians 3:12

Proverbs 28:13

1. What was the major take-away from this message?
2. Consider a past relational hurt that you have managed to work through. What was the most significant element that enabled you to 'let go' and 'move forward.'
3. How have these two messages helped you hold to the correct perspective on both family and church relationships?
4. Pastor Craig shared that there are consequences for living estranged.
 - a. Damage to the next generation
 - b. Lack of example of working through conflict
 - c. Our own need for inner peace
 - d. The negative impact on the ministry of reconciliation

Which of these have you experienced to be the truest of you in situations of relational conflict?
5. The first step in resetting a relationship is to 'rethink the event/relationship.' Pastor Craig shared an example of how doing that changed his relationship with his father. How easy is it for you to view a difficult relationship from the perspective of the one who hurt you? What holds you back from doing that?
6. How easy is it for you to reconnect with someone after conflict? What makes it so difficult? What tips can you share from your experience that has helped you to do it?
7. How easy is it for you to set and uphold boundaries?
8. "The past is never dead. It's not even past." How has this axiom from William Faulkner proven true for you? How well do you let go of the past? How necessary is it for you that other people agree with your view of the past? When is it essential for two views of the past to align?
9. Reconciliation, like estrangement, is rarely a single event but a product of many interactions over time. Pastor Craig shared that where his 'reset' acrostic ended is where resets likely begin. How do you take responsibility for your part in relational friction? Do you find it easy or difficult to confess your responsibility?