

## Making Up

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The Rotary Club in Arkansas recently invited me to speak at their weekly luncheon. I am not a member of the Rotary, so when a nice lady asked me, “Are you making up with us today?” I hardly knew how to answer. I later joked, “I didn’t even know I had offended you.” Obviously, she meant was I visiting from another location of the Rotary Club.

When people are at odds with each other “making up” is not always an easy thing to do. Perhaps we all know people who have been estranged for years over what to us is a very small thing. Solomon said, “An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends” (Proverbs 16:27-28). Even “a whisperer” can separate the best of friends.

While none of us is perfect, God is. And, our sins against Him are offensive. Think of it. The Bible says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Every good thing in life God has provided, yet we have sinned against Him. Barnabas and Paul reasoned with the citizens of Lystra concerning the living God “which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:15-17).

Even though we have sinned God is willing to receive us back, to reconcile our differences, to make up with us. Sometimes people are never disposed to make up. But, God who is perfect is. Isn’t God a wonderful God? He truly is amazing. His love and amazing grace are real qualities that bring us back into a right relationship with Him. So many Bible verses come to bear on this subject but just a couple will illustrate and strengthen the worthwhile point. 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” The apostles’ doctrine teaches, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Most people do not like to be alienated from friends. Making up can be humbling and even embarrassing, but the relationship is worth it. Like God doesn’t “upbraid” the person who asks Him for wisdom (“upbraid” means “without finding fault”), He not only forgives sins of which we repent, He “remembers them no more” (James 1:5 and Hebrews 8:12). What a moving incentive to make up with God to make friends again to be reconciled to God! God truly is an amazing and wonderful God.