

**LINCOLN COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH**  
**SERMON OUTLINE**  
**November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

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**Matthew 5:23-26**

**RECAP:** Last week we looked at the nature of personal conflict anger in the heart of the believer, and how it is something absolutely condemned by Christ. There are good contexts for anger (**Eph. 4:26**), but Christ talks here of personal relationships.

**Note:** This whole sermon is about informing us of a level of righteousness that is impossible for man to achieve without God directly changing Him. **Matt. 5:48**,

**THESIS:** God requires reconciliation, not pride, between believers in Christ.

**EXEGESIS:**

- Christ informs us that this person, who remembers he has wronged his brother, absolutely cannot sacrifice to God. This implies two things:
  1. Urgency. **There needs to be urgency in the believer's life to resolve conflict, to be forgiven from sins committed, and to heal relationships with brothers.**
  2. Reconciliation before worship. **Christ Himself says, do not worship me, offer repentance for sins, or atonement, until you've taken care of earthly matters.**
- Sub-thesis; *Our relationship with God is directly affected by our relationship with brothers and sisters in Christ. You can't wrong other people, and expect to have it all fine with God. Matt. 25:31-46, 1st John 3:15-17, Matt. 6:12, Matt. 18:21-35.*
- God is not interested in outward functions, with no inward change. **Hosea 6:6.**
- The word **reconcile** means "to change/alter thoroughly." What's implied here is doing whatever it takes to make the reconciliation, to fix the issue.
- If nothing else, we need to come away from this with a serious realization of the critical importance of the people around us.
- The word "**accuser**," is not used a great deal in the GNT, but is used once to reference Satan, the ultimate spiritual accuser, in **1st Pet. 5:8**. In this case, we're talking chiefly of human accusers.
  - Believers shouldn't go to legal court against other believers, **1st Cor. 6:1**.
- What seems to be going on here is a condemnation of pride and arrogance, across all of this passage.

**OBJECTION:** Now out of fairness, it is important to mention, nowhere is this passage saying, hastily seek to do whatever it takes to reconcile to someone who is making unreasonable, foolish claims, or someone who refuses to make amends.

**CONCLUSION:**

- This text is making clear some of the outward actions that result from our anger. When we get angry, act foolishly or with emotional outbursts towards someone, it is clearly a real evil that Christ condemns here.
  - When we sin in anger or outburst, take pains to resolve the situation.
  - Consider carefully when making amends with someone, how important it is.

