

September 04, 2022 – CHRIS LINDBERG

HOW TO APOLOGIZE WITH INTEGRITY

Big Idea

You probably have been hurt by somebody before, and you know how painful it is. But have you been on the other side? Have you done the same thing to other people? It's easy to play the victim role, but many people are hesitant to admit that they've been the offender a few times. Pastor Chris teaches us how to apologize whenever we are offenders.

The first thing we need to understand is the importance that God gives to keep the peace with our neighbors. Matthew 5:23-24 says, *"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your assistance."* In other words, Jesus is saying that working to bring restoration in your relationships takes priority over the worship of God.

Pastor Chris gave us five steps to apologize with integrity:

1. Admit to specific actions and attitudes.
2. Don't make excuses.
3. Accept the consequences.
4. Change your behavior.
5. Ask for forgiveness.

Scripture

- "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." - Matthew 5:9 (NIV)
- "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)
- "Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." Romans 12:18 (NLT)

Discussion Question

- Do you easily recognize your mistakes and failures? Do you take the time to apologize and care about the other person's feelings?
- When do you understand and accept the consequences, or are you quick to make excuses? Do you change your behavior?

Prayer Focus

Dear Lord, help me to recognize my mistakes and heal the wounds I caused to other people. I repent, and I don't want to do those things again. Help me to be a blessing and love people like you do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Next Steps

Pray that the Holy Spirit shows you the things you did wrong and how you can bring healing and transformation to bad feelings that might have been generated. Ask for forgiveness and show genuine repentance.

Think of ways to seek restoration and ask the Lord for direction. Be intentional in seeking peace in your relationships.

Leader Tip

Share a personal story of how God showed you that you needed repentance and how was your attitude about it. Encourage always people to love more the people than being right.