**The Cross Teaches About Reconciliation**

A group of crosses

Description automatically generated with low confidence

What are some synonyms and antonyms for reconciliation?

The breaking down of human relationships is common.  What do Romans 12:18 and Matthew 5:23, 24 teach us about this?

The Bible story is about the breaking down and reconciliation of the relationship between God and man:

Read this passage carefully – note that a form of the word reconciliation is found 5 times in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Why did the relationship between man and God break down?  Who was at fault?

In human relationships we sometimes say no one is completely innocent (though that not necessarily the case).  Does “there is plenty of blame to go around” apply to the disruption of our relationship with God?

Who took the initiative to repair the relationship between God and man?

What excuses, commonly used by men, could God have used to to keep from feeling any need to take the lead in making peace”.

Suppose someone is totally innocent in the breakdown of a relationship.  What does the example of Jesus teach us?

The relationships among the Christians in Corinth had deteriorated to the point of lawsuits!  What did Paul tell them to do to bring about reconciliation? How is this following the example of Jesus? (1 Cor 6:1, 7).

Saying “I am sorry” goes a long way toward mending broken relationships. It is hard to argue with someone who says I am sorry!   Can we say “I am sorry” even when we think we have done nothing wrong?