

## Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline June 28, 2015 (John Robertson)

### ***Reconcile – Part 1***

We live in a world where we are constantly aware of conflict and brokenness and disruption. It doesn't matter whether it is in relationships between two people, two governments or two nations – you only have to turn on the television or pick up a newspaper to see the extent of conflict at every level.

“What does it mean to be an everyday reconciler?”

How can things be made right with God, made right with ourselves, with others and with the world around us?

Insert diagram here

#### **Four Predictors to Causing Conflict**

1. *Acting Superior* – pride, arrogance and judgement lead to conflict.
2. *De-humanising Someone* – failing to recognise the image of God in another, to forgo seeing your similarities and focussing on them as an object will lead to conflict.
3. *Dividing People* – when segregation happens when we fail to arrest injustice to a people group or person and allow it to go on there will inevitably be conflict.
4. *Lack of Integrity* – when we say one thing and do another, when we don't do what we say we will, then conflict comes.

## ***A Story of Reconciliation – Jacob and Esau***

### **Disruption and Conflict - Genesis 27:30-41**

“Who is it?” Jacob’s identity crisis and greed lead him to receive a blessing that wasn’t his.

Two brothers now move away from one another. Conflict fills the air – these two brothers, two nations, now go their separate ways. They move away from one another.

### **The Move Away – Genesis 28:1-9**

Jacob goes to Paddan Aram to Laban’s house

Esau goes to Ishmael’s house

Where in your life have you found yourself moving away from another person because of conflict?

### **The Turn – Genesis 28:10-22**

*“Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.”* Genesis 28:16 (NIV)

God speaks to Jacob and turns his heart back towards his family (Genesis 28:20-21)

God is inviting you – what might it look like to take a step towards making it right with that person who you have moved away from?

### **The Journey Towards Reconciliation – Genesis 32:1-32**

Esau comes out to meet Jacob and he has 400 men with him – he’s ready to make war.

Jacob finds himself wrestling with God all night.

Jacob's journey requires him to make a self assessment – “What is your name?” (Genesis 32:27).

The journey towards reconciliation is one giant wrestling match! For some they are too fearful to enter in to the journey because they know there will be a wrestling match internally.

Amidst the wrestling match of this journey the question will be asked “what's your name?” What actions are you responsible for? What was the part you played in moving away and why?

### **The Reconciliation Encounter – Genesis 33:1-4**

A reconciliation encounter is a sacred and beautiful space where two people meet one another to resolve conflict.

That's the hope. That's our hope for our own broken relationships, for those amongst our family here at KBC and for the world around us.

### **Challenge**

The gospel is all about reconciliation. It's about making things right with God, right within you, right with others and right with the world around you.

Disruptions happen in all four of these areas.

There's an invitation for us to be a people who are to be everyday reconcilers.

*God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19 MSG)*

Reconciliation as demonstrated in Jesus is the mission of God! Therefore, it's the mission of the church. You and I are called to be everyday reconcilers. It begins with us – we are to become a picture so people can see what reconciliation looks like with God, within ourselves, with others and with the world around us.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Discuss together areas in which you find yourself in conflict with others?
2. How does fear keep us from moving toward reconciliation? What are some of the outcomes that we fear might occur if we engage in reconciliation?
3. Is it possible that your own journey toward reconciliation might begin with a struggle with God? What might that struggle look like?
4. We have a tendency to associate reconciliation with a single event. How is reconciliation like a journey? An encounter? A place?
5. In what ways does Jesus model true reconciliation?
6. Take time to think of a current area of conflict either with God, yourself, others or the world around you. What needs to happen next to make the turn and to start to make the journey towards what or who you have moved away from? Ask the Lord for wisdom.