

QFMC 5 Day Devotional

Week of May 17, 2026 by Ed Burns

Reconciliation and Love in the Kingdom

Day 1: The Immeasurable Love of God

Reading: 1 John 3:1-3; Psalm 103:8-14

Devotional: Consider how much you love those closest to you—your children, spouse, or dear friends. That overwhelming affection you feel is merely a shadow of God's love for you. Even in our brokenness, we know how to give good gifts to those we love. How much more does our perfect Heavenly Father love us? His love knows no bounds, transcending our comprehension. Today, let this truth settle deep in your heart: you are loved exponentially more than you can imagine. Whatever burden you carry, whatever failure weighs you down, God's love remains constant and unending. His name is a strong tower—run to Him. Let His immeasurable love be the foundation upon which you build all your relationships, knowing that you love others best when you've first received His love.

Day 2: The Heart Behind the Law

Reading: Matthew 5:21-26; 1 John 3:14-15

Devotional: Jesus confronts our comfortable righteousness: "You've never murdered anyone? Congratulations—but what about your anger?" He exposes the heart issue beneath the act. Harboring ongoing anger, nursing grudges, or wishing ill upon others—these murder relationships just as surely as physical violence. Anger is like a warning light on your dashboard, signaling deeper problems that need immediate attention. When we ignore it, we give the enemy a foothold. The Pharisees prided themselves on external obedience while their hearts remained cold. But Jesus calls us to a higher standard—one that addresses not just our actions but our attitudes. Today, ask God to reveal any continuing anger in your heart. Don't ignore the warning signs. Stop and address what's really going on before relationships suffer irreparable harm.

Day 3: Words That Kill or Heal

Reading: Proverbs 12:18; 15:1; James 3:1-12

Devotional: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me"—we know this childhood rhyme is false. Words pierce like swords, leaving wounds that sometimes never fully heal. From anger flows name-calling, from name-calling comes dehumanization. When we label others as "stupid," "worthless," or use racial slurs, we commit relational murder. Our tongues have the power of life and death. The same mouth that praises God should not curse those made in His image. Consider your words this week—in person, in texts, on social media. Are you wielding your tongue as a weapon or as an instrument of healing? A gentle answer turns away wrath; harsh words stir up anger. Choose today to speak life, to build up rather than tear down. Remember: people Jesus died to save surround you. Treat them accordingly.

Day 4: Relationships Before Rituals

Reading: Matthew 5:23-24; 1 John 4:20-21

Devotional: Jesus shocked the religious establishment by giving permission to leave worship—even during the offering—to reconcile broken relationships. This violated every rule of proper religious etiquette. But Jesus prioritized relationships over rituals, people over procedures. We cannot claim to love God while harboring bitterness toward our brother or sister. The two are inseparable. Worship means nothing if we're nursing grudges. The world will know we're Christ's disciples not by our church attendance, biblical knowledge, or worship excellence, but by our love for one another. The proof is in the pudding. Every time the offering plate passes, do a reconciliation check: Is everything right between me and others? If not, God says: Go. Make it right. First things first. Relationships last forever. Your offering can wait. Reconciliation cannot.

Day 5: The Ministry of Reconciliation

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Romans 12:18

Devotional: When relationships break down, speed matters. Jesus uses a legal metaphor: settle matters quickly before they escalate into costly court battles. The longer we wait, the messier things become. Don't let the sun go down on your anger. But how? Three principles guide us: First, approach with grace—the same amazing grace God showed you. Second, reestablish the relationship through forgiveness, clearly stating your intention to rebuild rather than prove who's right. Third, own your part. It takes two to tango, and rarely is breakdown entirely one-sided. Humbly acknowledge your contribution. Then, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. You cannot control their response, but you can control yours. God reconciled you to Himself through Christ. Now He's given you the ministry of reconciliation. Go. Make peace. Be a bridge-builder in His name.