

# The Relief of Reconciliation

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Eph. 4:31-32

When I was in junior high school, I walked to and from school with my friend, Pete. It was about a mile between our homes and the school. We talked about sports, friends, news, assignments and joked around. I no longer remember a specific conversation, but I remember when it stopped. We were tussling around in the school hallway, laughingly pushing and shoving, and suddenly I knocked off his glasses and they broke on the floor. He got mad and I felt awful. Our parents talked and I had to pay for his new glasses from my paper route money. We stopped walking together and rarely saw each other in the weeks following.

Our church was having revival services, and I felt a stirring in my heart. When I closed my eyes to pray, I could only see Pete's face. I tried to convince myself that he's the one that got mad and broke off our friendship. I finally went forward one night to pray at the altar, and his face was still in my mind's eye. So, I resolved to take the first step and approach him. I told him I was sorry, and it broke the ice. He responded that it was not a big deal, and the air was cleared. All was forgiven. What a relief! Our walking to school together resumed and I was no longer troubled when I closed my eyes to pray. When we got to high school, we played in the high school band together.

Over the years, we lost contact and went to separate colleges in different states. In recent years my sister sent me a newspaper clipping that told of Pete's death. That brought back the memory of our school hallway incident. I was so glad that I had not refused the Lord's prompting to take the first step of reconciliation. It's a lesson I will never forget. Forgiveness and reconciliation free your spirit to go on with God!

*Lord Jesus, we are amazed by your forgiveness of those who crucified you, and we thank you for the Word that shows us how our relationship with God is intricately related to our relationship with others.*