

How People Grow Cloud and Townsend: (quotes)

Quotes from Pages 27-28

This “message of reconciliation” [see 2 Cor. 5:18-19] is at the heart of the gospel. In salvation and in the growth process, God is reconciling things, *bringing them back to the way they should be*. [emphasis mine]

Many times we forget the way things should be,...

...the real life-changing dynamics of this “ministry of reconciliation.”a redemptive path that will “reconcile” his of her life...

The question then becomes “What are we trying to reconcile?”

1. to get people back into a relationship with God
2. to reconcile people to each other
3. to reconcile people to the idea of holiness and pure living

We must be reconciled to life the way it was created to work...

Quotes from Pages 184-5

...The answer is not “goodness,” or more self-esteem. The answer is love.

That is the reason we have a gospel of reconciliation of relationship with God and others instead of a gospel of being “better” people. If we get reconciled, we will be better, but we won’t be obsessed with it. The “knowledge of good and evil” will not be the big issue; love will be....

....*Reconciliation to love* is the answer for guilt of any kind. [emphasis mine]

So as you work on your guilt or the guilt of others, remember that it is not a problem, but a symptom. It is a symptom of being separated from Love. And the solution to this problem is always reconciliation to Love....

Quotes from Page 304

...We have the ability to do the wrong thing on purpose.

The solution to this is confession, remorse, repentance, making amends, and reconciliation with whomever we have hurt....

Quotes from Page 336-7

An active stance toward growth also means that we give more weight to reconciliation than to fairness. Rather than waiting for a person who has hurt us to come to us, we need to take the initiative to reconcile. . . God sought us out and solved our alienation from him even though he would have been justified in taking no more action toward us. He gave up demands for fairness for the sake of relationship.

My reflection on reconciliation:

The central theme in a ministry of reconciliation is that of being personally reconciled to God. When a person becomes reconciled to God that person may then also be in a better place to reconcile with others. Conversely, if a person who is not reconciled to God reconciles with another in his or her life, a door may be opened to become reconciled with God as well. Social reconciliation (people reconciling to people), although it could be viewed as a larger and therefore more significant stream than individual reconciliation, is still not the central theme because societies as a whole do not face eternity in the same way individuals do.