

What To Do When You've Hurt Your Spouse

by America's Family Coaches

Have you ever hurt your spouse in some way? All right, so it's a trick question. Of course, you have hurt your spouse, just as he or she has hurt you. If not, you either haven't been married very long (*like maybe five minutes!*) or one of you isn't human! Even the best of relationships is vulnerable to slights and slams, criticism, and avoidance, lies and betrayals of some kind. Since marriage is the closest of all relationships, it is anything but exempt from hurt. And it's never a one-way street. You have been the offender at least as often as you have been the offended.

Of course, the majority of the hurts we inflict on our spouses are unintentional. We never really set out to insult, violate, or ignore each other. A slip of the tongue, a careless word or deed, a thoughtless omission—they happen because we are weak, sinful, & selfish human beings. But they still hurt.

You have been on the offending side of marital conflict, and you have also been on the receiving end, feeling the pain of hurt and disappointment. Whether you are the giver or the receiver, every offense in a marriage needs a relational solution. In Matthew 5, Jesus offers some helpful and very practical advice for dealing with these painful lapses in marriage.

"If you are standing before the altar in the Temple, offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God." Matthew 5:23-24

It's interesting the way Jesus sets the scene for relational reconciliation. He pictures us "standing before the altar...offering a sacrifice to God." Let's say this represents a good Christian husband or wife going about the business of seeking and serving God. You go to church, you have devotions; all the Christian "stuff".

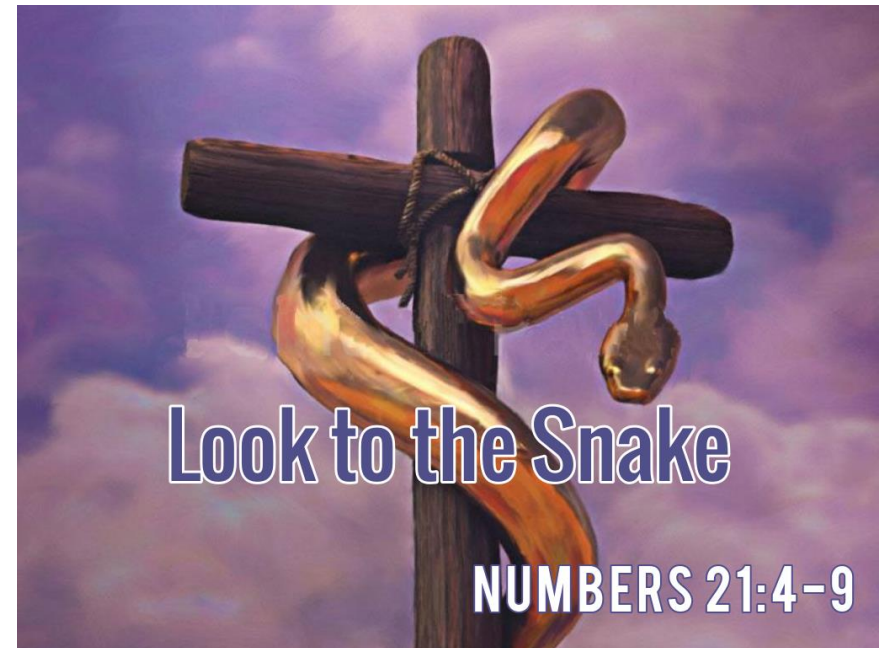
It's no coincidence then to "suddenly remember" something isn't quite right with his or her spouse. That's what happens when we approach God in worship. The closer we draw to him, the brighter the light of his love shines in our hearts. The Holy Spirit is free to point out areas of weakness and sin.

So, don't be surprised at that moment, you are right where God wants you. He is lovingly taking the opportunity to clear up something between you & your spouse.

Next Jesus commands, "Leave your sacrifice...go and be reconciled." Is he saying that the health of our relationships with others, including our spouse, is at least as important as our relationship with God? Is he saying something like, "God isn't interested in your worship until you make right the wrong you did"?

This may be a little difficult for some to grasp, but such an interpretation is compatible with the rest of Scripture. For example, Jesus didn't want people to call him "Lord" if they weren't going to obey him (*Luke 6:46*). Love for God and love for people are inseparable in God's scheme of things. The essence of Jesus' command is this: "As soon as you realize that you have offended your spouse, nothing is more important than making it right."

Don't put it off. Confess your wrong and ask your spouse's forgiveness at your earliest convenience. *When you are facing conflict always place the priority on the relationship over the issue at hand.* The health of your marriage and your relationship with God depend on it.



WELCOME TO LAKEVIEW CHAPEL

Sunday, April 11, 2021 / Worship 10 AM

Song	Great Things
Invocation	
Welcome & Announcements	
Song	Do It Again
Song	Tremble
Worship Prayer	Tom
Message	Look to the Snake
	Pastor Dave Havener
Song	Hear Us From Heaven
Song	Your Great Name
Benediction	

Sermons are available online at:

<https://www.lakeviewwego.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/lakeviewwego>

Events and Information

Thank you for doing your part in keeping our congregation safe by wearing a face mask as you enter/exit the church and as you sing.

LUNCH ON THE GO – Lakeview will provide Lunch on the Go today following the morning service. If you would like to help, see Kelly.

I LOVE MY CHURCH WORKDAY - A workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 17 with breakfast at 7:30 AM, a devotional at 8 AM and work projects to follow. **If you plan to attend the breakfast, please sign-up on the table at the back of the church.**

RAFTING TRIP – Come raft with us in the PA Grand Canyon Saturday, April 24. It is a full day trip! Arrive at Lakeview at 6:30 AM and the estimated return time is between 7-9 PM. The trip is open to youth and adults. Cost \$20. Lunch will be provided. We will likely stop at McDonald's for diner where you can purchase a meal before home. See Steve if you have any questions.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS CONFERENCE

Our International Workers Conference will be held Sunday evening, April 25 through Wednesday evening, April 28 with International Worker Mark E. who serves in Bosnia. A sign-up sheet is on the Missions table for those who would like to host Mark for lunch or supper during the conference. Also, if anyone knows of a car he can use while at Lakeview, please let Pastor Dave know. More details to follow.

GREAT COMMISSION FUND – Pray for what God might have you contribute to the Great Commission Fund. Faith Promise cards are in your bulletin and children's Faith Promise cards can be found on the Missions table. Please place your card in the church's offering box or the church office by the end of April.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS EVENT - International Worker Renee V. will join us on Sunday morning, June 20 at 10 AM. Renee will share with us about the work God is doing at the hospital.

**We're building a community of faith in God
that LIVES WELL but not by SIGHT.**

Small Group Ministry

Small Groups

Adult Group (Led by Steve & Kristie)

Meeting Friday evenings 7 PM at Steve & Kristie's home. Using *'The Steps to Freedom in Christ'* material. For more information, call the church office (607)-687-3261.

Couples Small Group (Led by Chad & Judy)

Tuesday evenings 6:30 PM. Meeting at Lakeview in the fellowship hall. Reviewing *'The Art of Marriage'*. For more information, call the church office (607) 687-3261.

Bible Study Groups

Women's Bible Study (Led by Anne)

Tuesday mornings from 9:30 AM-12 Noon at Lakeview. Meeting in the sanctuary.

Men's Bible Study (Led by Pastor Dave)

Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM at Lakeview. Meeting in the fellowship hall.

Prayer Group (Led by Art) Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8 PM at Lakeview. Meeting in the church office.

Wednesday Night Youth Programs (6:30-8 PM)

IMPACT (Teen Group 6th–12th grade)

This Weeks Calendar

Tuesday	9:30 AM	Women's Bible Study
	6:00 PM	DMC Meeting
	6:30 PM	Couples Small Group
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Prayer Meeting, Men's Bible Study
	6:30 PM	IMPACT (Teen Group)
Friday	7:00 PM	Adult Small Group
Saturday	7:30 AM-12:30 PM	I Love My Church Workday