

Pacific Growth Group – Sermon Questions

Week of February 15th, 2026

Sermon Series: Together: God’s Design for Relationships and Community.

Sermon Theme: “The Gift of Reconciliation”

Primary Text(s): Genesis 32:22-32 & 33:1-17

1. The sermon began with a reference to research on childhood moral reasoning.
 - a. *Why do you think reconciliation often becomes more complicated as we grow older?*
2. The sermon defined reconciliation as: “the restoration of a relationship after rupture through repentance before God, forgiveness empowered by God, and renewed commitment to peace through God’s grace.”
 - a. *How does this definition differ from simply “moving on” or ignoring conflict?*
3. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:19 and the idea that reconciliation is the “heartbeat of the gospel.”
 - a. *Why is it important to remember that reconciliation is something we receive before it is something we practice?*
 - b. *How does God’s initiative toward us shape how we approach others?*
4. *Looking at Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25–27), how did envy, manipulation, impulse, and deception contribute to their estrangement?*
 - a. *Which of the “seven deadly sins” discussed in the sermon do you see most often damaging relationships today?*
5. Jacob and Esau were separated for twenty years.
 - a. *What is the difference between healthy space and sinful avoidance?*
 - b. *How do Proverbs 14:29 and 15:1 help us understand the wisdom of restraint?*
6. In Genesis 32, Jacob wrestles with God and receives a new name.
 - a. *Why was identity transformation essential before reconciliation with Esau could occur?*
 - b. *What does it mean for us to have “the mind of Christ” (Philippians 2:6–8) in strained relationships?*
7. The sermon noted that the mind of Christ produces contrition in those who caused harm and forgiveness in those who were harmed.
 - a. *Why are both humility and forgiveness necessary for reconciliation?*
 - b. *Which posture is more difficult for you personally, admitting wrong or releasing resentment?*

8. Jacob initially attempted to manage the outcome when meeting Esau (Genesis 33).
 - a. *What are subtle ways we try to manipulate reconciliation today (tone, timing, strategic vulnerability, etc.)?*
 - b. *Why must reconciliation be surrendered to God rather than engineered by us?*
9. After reconciling, Jacob and Esau did not merge households.
 - a. *What does this teach us about the difference between peace and proximity?*
 - b. *How can reconciliation coexist with wisdom and boundaries in certain relationships?*
10. The sermon emphasized that Jesus is our peace and has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility.
 - a. *How does Christ's work on the cross make reconciliation possible, even when it feels impossible?*
 - b. *What specific relationship in your life might God be inviting you to approach differently in light of the gospel?*