

Excerpts from book **HEALING OUR BROKEN HUMANITY:  
PRACTICES FOR REVITALIZING THE CHURCH AND RENEWING THE WORLD**

### **WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?**

Reconciliation isn't an easy or simple process. It involves lament, repentance, and forgiveness. It requires justice, authentic partnerships, and equality. Notice that reconciliation doesn't come first. Reconciliation is only possible after lamenting the past, repenting of our complicity, seeking forgiveness, relinquishing power, restoring justice, relishing diversity, and reinforcing agency.

In *Roadmap to Reconciliation* Brenda Salter McNeil defines *reconciliation* in a helpful way. Her definition talks about the biblical and theological *foundations* of reconciliation, the various *aspects* of reconciliation, the *process* of reconciliation, the *systematic* nature of reconciliation, and the *final goal* of reconciliation. McNeil says, "Reconciliation is an ongoing spiritual process involving forgiveness, repentance, and justice that restores broken relationships and systems to reflect God's original intention for all creation to flourish."

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Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice talk about the various visions of reconciliation. Some see reconciliation as mostly being about *individual salvation* and the reconciliation between God and humanity. Others see reconciliation as an effort to recognize and *celebrate diversity* and inclusion. Others paint a picture of reconciliation as a process of *firefighting*: overcoming urgent and immediate expressions of conflict, brokenness, and division.

These are all aspects of reconciliation. True reconciliation draws all these ideas together around the reconciling nature, story, and mission of God. So, Emmanuel Katongole and Chris Rice say that the church needs to "recover reconciliation as the mission of God."

*Excerpts taken from Healing Our Broken Humanity by Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill.  
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