

# RECONCILIATION PLAN EXAMPLE FOR ABUSE

## EXAMPLE

**Titus 3:3–5:** *“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.”*

**With whom am I seeking biblical reconciliation?** My father. My abuser.

**Does this person claim to be a Christian?** Yes

**Have I forgiven this person for all of his or her sins against me?** As far as I know.

**If no, explain what is holding you back from forgiveness. Ask God to help you forgive as you have been forgiven.**

Occasionally, a memory will stir and resentment will surprise me. But, then I will revisit forgiveness. My prayer: “Lord, if there is anything I am holding on to, would you reveal it to me? I want to be able to love my earthly father as you love him.”

**Have I already made amends for my sins against this person?** For almost everything.

**If no, then what sins do I first need to confess, repent, and make amends for? When will I seek forgiveness and make amends?**

I need to make amends for a few resentments that I’ve continued to hold against my dad. These resentments led me to isolate from the family in order to punish him. Also, I stayed silent too long because I feared my dad more than God. My silence enabled his illness to go unaddressed. I will ask for forgiveness for these when I confront him.

**Is there potential for my reconciliation attempt to cause greater harm than good?** Possibly.

**If yes, explain why** (be sure to discuss with godly counsel before attempting reconciliation):

I need to discuss this with godly counsel. I will confront my dad and let him know that if he doesn’t get help we will limit (possibly deny) his access to our children. What are the appropriate boundaries to have in place with him if this is needed? Do I tell my siblings about confronting Dad? This has potential to blow up the family. Do I press charges legally or try to get him added to the sex offender registry in order to protect others?

**Can the other person’s sin be overlooked as a minor offense? Explain.** No.  
Dad’s sin harmed me, himself, our family, and our relationships with God.

**Is there anyone else in this person’s life with whom I can widen the circle if he or she is unwilling to deal with sin biblically? Friends? Christians who have a responsibility to help this person?**

Family (siblings) and his church. Possibly the law.

**Matthew 18:15–17:** *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”*

**2 Timothy 2:24–25:** *“And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.”*

List sin harming this person’s relationships with God, you, and others.	List specific Bible passages that address the sin or behavior.
Dad abused me when I was 10. He made me fondle his penis while he rubbed my vagina with his hands. In addition, he exposed me to pornography. Instead of teaching me about healthy sex he introduced me to incest. Then, he told me to never tell anyone and we never spoke of it again.	<p><i>“None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover nakedness. I am the Lord.”</i> (Leviticus 18:6)</p> <p><i>“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”</i> (Ephesians 5:3, NIV)</p>

List potential responses this person may have when confronted about sin.	How will you lovingly reply to these responses if they occur?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Denial</li> <li>2. Threaten to cut me off from the family, out of the will, and to spread lies about me</li> <li>3. Make up lies about me</li> <li>4. Admit the abuse, ask forgiveness, and seek to mend the relationship</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If he denies the abuse or threatens me, I will tell him that I love him, that we both know what happened, and that God loves him, too. Until he is honest and seeks help, we will not allow our children near him. I will also ask my siblings if he abused them and tell them of my abuse – to protect other grandchildren. Consider with godly counsel whether to press charges.</li> <li>2. If he confesses and seeks to mend the relationship, I will ask him to tell our family with me, tell his church leaders, and attend <i>re:generation</i>. We will still protect our children, but will allow him to establish trust as we see him faithfully following Christ.</li> </ol>

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**What steps will you take to love this person if he or she responds well to biblical reconciliation?**

I will tell him that I love him. Write letters of encouragement as I see him growing. I will attend family gatherings but keep a close watch on our children.

**Are there steps for you to take to love this person if he or she will not deal with sin or change sinful behavior? How will your relationship change?**

I will not allow my children to attend family gatherings when he is present. I will inform my siblings of what happened to me so that they can make their own decisions regarding their kids. I will call or write him on occasion to tell him that I love him, God loves him, and I want him to be well. I will consider pressing charges if he is a threat to others. I will PRAY for God to convict my dad and to heal him.

**At what point will you know that you have done all you can to love and help this person reconcile with God? Will you commit to continue to pray for this person?**

When I have confronted the sin, communicated God's love, reiterated my love, protected my children, exposed the family secret, and offered an opportunity to reconcile. I will continue to pray for my dad.

**By what date will you contact this person to arrange a reconciliation meeting?**

I will talk with godly counsel by the end of the month. My husband and I will meet with my dad by the end of next month.