

RE-ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

RE-ASSEMBLY REQUIRED | PART 3

There are three common excuses we turn to when our efforts to restore a broken relationship don't work out the way we thought they would:

1. **I don't care.**

Oftentimes, we actually care deeply about the things we say we don't care about. This excuse could actually mean: "I'm powerless to do anything about it, but I wish I could."

2. **I already tried.**

This statement comes with a crossed-arms attitude: "I've done everything I could and now I'm waiting on them." This statement really undoes the first decision we talked about: "I will get back to, not get back at."

3. **It wasn't my fault.**

This statement highlights the other person's role in the conflict, while at the same time minimizes our own.

CONNECT

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Have you ever seen one of the above excuses come up in one of your relationships? How did it affect your relationship?
2. What's the most difficult relationship you've ever had to repair? What did you learn from that experience?

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.



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APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Is it difficult to admit that you're wrong? Why or why not?
2. Think of someone you have a difficult relationship with. What percentage of the blame pie do you own? Why is it so easy to focus on their part of the blame pie?
3. Read Romans 12:9–21 aloud. What key words stand out? Do those key words bring to mind something in any of your relationships? Why?

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

It is natural to minimize our role when reassembling a relationship, but Jesus invites us to follow his example and, as much as it depends on us, to make the first move. Before you finish this study the next time your group meets, take some time to memorize Romans 12:18.

APPLY

Before you pray this week, follow up on the conversation from last week when you asked who you could be praying for. Ask: What steps have you taken toward reconciliation? If no one has taken any steps, what has stopped them? Then, close your time in prayer. You can use Andy's prayer as a starting place:

Heavenly Father, it's much easier to stand up here and talk about this than to do it. I realize that with an audience this large, there are stories. There are stories that would bring us to tears and wonder if we have any right to make any suggestions. So would you give each of us the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it? The courage to go first, the courage to pray that prayer, Father. If there's something I need to own, I don't want to miss it. I want to own it. And I pray, Father, that you would use the words of somebody listening today to unlock somebody else's heart... that their humility would unlock a heart that's going to stay locked up and hidden unless that happens. So, again, give us eyes to see, ears to hear, and the courage to act. In Jesus's name, amen.

