

WAYPOINT

Week 11 – Making Amends - Points from the talk (6/8/22):

Step 8: “Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.”

Step 9: “Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”

- **Becoming willing to make amends:**
 - *“We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven’t the will to do this, we ask until it comes.”* (Big Book, 76)
- **Prudence in making Amends:**
 - Immediate, Partial, Deferred, or Never
 - *“It is seldom wise to approach an individual, who still smarts from our injustice to him or her, and announce that we have gone ‘religious’. In the prize ring, this would be called leading with the chin. Why lay ourselves open to being branded fanatics or religious bores? We may kill a future opportunity to carry a beneficial message. But our man or woman is sure to be impressed with a sincere desire to set right the wrong. He is going to be more interested in a demonstration of good will than in our talk of spiritual discoveries. We don’t use this as an excuse to shying away from the subject of God. When it will serve any good purpose, we are willing to announce our convictions with tact and common sense.”* (Big Book, 77)
- **Most difficult Amends:**
 - *“It is harder to go to an enemy than to a friend, but we find that it is much more beneficial to us. We go to him or her in a forgiving spirit, confessing our former ill feeling and expressing our regret. Under no condition do we criticize such a person or argue... We are there to sweep off our side of the street... His or her faults are not discussed. We stick to our own. If our manner is calm, frank, and open, we will be gratified with the result.”* (Big Book, 77-78)
- **Satisfaction, Expiation, Reparation or Restitution**
 - Catechism, 1459
 - *“Many sins wrong our neighbor. One must do what is possible in order to repair the harm (e.g., return stolen goods, restore the reputation of someone we have slandered, pay compensation for injuries). Simple justice requires as much... Raised up from sin, the sinner must still recover his full spiritual health by doing something more to make amends for the sin: he must ‘make satisfaction for’ or ‘expiate’ his sins. This satisfaction is also called ‘penance’.”*
 - Catechism, 2487

- *“Every offense committed against justice and truth entails the duty of reparation, even if its author has been forgiven. When it is impossible publicly to make reparation for a wrong, it must be made secretly. If someone who has suffered harm cannot be directly compensated, he must be given moral satisfaction in the name of charity. This duty of reparation also concerns offenses against another’s reputation. This reparation, moral and sometimes material, must be evaluated in terms of the extent of the damage inflicted. It obliges in conscience.”*
 - Luke 19:8
 - *“If I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.”*
- **Peace**
 - Psalm 34:14
 - *“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”*
 - Matthew 5:23-24
 - *“So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”*
 - Romans 12:18
 - *“If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.”*
 - Matthew 5:9
 - *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God”*

Week 11 - Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever made amends with someone over something serious? How did it go? What did it feel like afterwards? What did you learn from it?
2. What holds us back from making amends when it would be appropriate to do so?
3. Has anyone ever made amends to us? What did that feel like?
4. How is making amends related to overcoming our character defects, vices, or sins?

Closing Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.