

The Wounds of Nations by John Dawson

Individuals can hurt each other through selfish and unjust behavior, but it is also possible for a wound to be sustained by a nation or a people group within a nation. Animosity and bitterness sometimes festers unresolved for generations. The Native Americans, for example, the host people of the U.S.A., have been severely wounded by the government, the church, and society.

WE CAN BE INVOLVED IN RECONCILIATION

Growing repentance over historic sins has led to unprecedented affection and respect between today's believers across the denominations and movements. Jesus said that when this occurs ..."the world would believe that the Father sent Me." John 17:21

WHEN WILL THEY SEE JESUS?

When the united Church carries the ministry of reconciliation beyond its walls.

TAKING ACTION TOGETHER

Sometimes people begin this process by organizing events and ceremonies in which representatives of offended subcultures or representatives of offending subcultures have an opportunity to express regret and/or extend forgiveness. It is our hope that our children will not have to deal with the hatred and alienation that have marked the experience of this and past generations. Our inclination is to uncover the ancient and modern wounds of injustice, pride and prejudice and to heal them in a biblical way - that is to say without self-righteous accusation or dishonest cover-up.

FOUR HEALING CHOICES

We believe in confession, repentance, reconciliation and restitution.

CONFESSION: Stating the truth; acknowledgment of the unjust or hurtful actions of myself or my people group toward other persons or categories of persons. (this is often seen as our main theme but this is simply because it is the place to begin and contemporary Christians have neglected it...)

REPENTANCE: Turning from unloving to loving actions.

RECONCILIATION: Expressing and receiving forgiveness, and pursuing intimate fellowship with previous enemies.

RESTITUTION: Attempting to restore that which has been damaged or destroyed, and seeking justice wherever we have power to act or to influence those in authority to act.

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