

**Principles for a Transformed Life (PTL)**  
**Principle #5: Restitution and Restoration**

Our problems and habits don't just affect us. We always manage to do harm to others as well. Whether actively injuring through hurtful words and actions, or defrauding by being unavailable to take care of our responsibilities, we leave a trail of offended parties and broken relationships. In order to enjoy a peaceful life and make ourselves of maximum use to others, we must make restitution. We must be able to walk down the street without being afraid to meet anyone, and to lie down at night without the burden of guilt.

- ◆ Our God is a God of reconciliation and restoration.
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. He has placed in us the ministry of reconciliation. The relationship with God is the first one that must be repaired.
  - God wants our relationships with other people to be mended as well. Matthew 18:15-20 / Galatians 6:1 / Matthew 5:23-26

**Topic for Discussion**

List 3 relationships that have been harmed or destroyed by your addiction.

- ◆ The Bible teaches the principle of restoration with interest for those we harm.
  - Leviticus 6:1-6 / Exodus 22:1-4 / Proverbs 6:30-31 / Luke 19:8
  - **Remember:** We have stolen in many ways that are not obvious. We must look for all areas where we have cheated others. That will include time for your family, performance for your employer, pilfering supplies, calling in sick when you were not ill, causing embarrassment or inconvenience to your loved ones. What have others missed because I was out of the will of God?

**Topic for Discussion**

List 3 people to whom know you need to make some kind of restitution.



### The Process

1.     Paying back those we have harmed
  - a.    Make a list of all persons you have harmed either by commission or omission
  - b.    Beside each name, write out exactly what you did to cause harm.
  - c.    Write out what it would take to repay the debt. Some things may require prayerful and creative thinking. Monetary debts are the easy ones.
  - d.    Begin to prayerfully plan to make restitution. Discuss these things with an older, wiser counselor.
2.     Restoring broken relationships
  - a.    List those people with whom you are out of fellowship.
  - b.    Beside each one write down what part of the problem is your fault. (Read Romans 12:9-21)
  - c.    Begin writing letters, making calls, or planning trips to ask forgiveness of these people. Discuss your approach with an elder counselor.
3.     **Live it daily.** Having cleared the slate of offences, it is important to keep it clean. The practice of inventory, repentance, and restitution is the lifestyle of humble Christian service.