



Dear Friends,

Over the past fortnight, it's been virtually impossible to not read or hear stories from Prince Harry's book, *Spare*. The media has publicized the book's most sensational claims, which mainly relate to the Duke of Sussex's relationships with his father, King Charles and brother, Prince William, and their spouses, Camilla and Kate. By all accounts, there has been lots of dirty washing aired by Prince Harry, in which he recalls things said and done by family members that have been hurtful to him and his wife, Meghan.

Rob Harris, reporting on Prince Harry's revelations in *The Sydney Morning Herald* (9/1/23), commented "it now seems unimaginable that he [i.e., Prince Harry] will ever be able to fully reconcile with them [i.e., King Charles and Prince William and their spouses]."

When I read those words, I felt a deep sadness. It made me wonder what it would be like to have bad things I've said and done to hurt my loved ones splashed across newspapers, broadcast on television and uploaded to the internet forever, for the entire world to hear, see and talk about in workplaces, homes and cafes. Could I forgive, let alone be reconciled to a family member or close friend who decided to public reveal my sinful behaviour with complete strangers?

I totally understand Rob Harris' reservations about the prospect of full reconciliation between the Sussexes, and King Charles and his immediate heir. One senses a line has been crossed from which there is no conceivable return.

But then I thought of these words in 2 Corinthians 5:16-20:

*So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who **reconciled** us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be **reconciled** to God.*

There may be no way back to reconciled relationships within the British royal family. But what is humanly inconceivable and unimaginable is made possible by the gospel of Jesus Christ. God's word says, if God has reconciled us to himself, despite all that we have done to offend and reject him, our goal must be to pursue forgiveness and reconciliation for those who have sinned against us.

Is there someone close to you who you've fallen out with because of something hurtful they said or did? Taking the gospel seriously means being willing to move toward forgiveness and being open to the possibility of reconciliation with that person. Because you are united to Christ, you are now a new creation in whom the Holy Spirit lives, so that you are now a child of God. The ability to forgive does not come naturally to sinful human beings. Forgiveness and reconciliation are divine acts. So, if you belong to Christ, you possess the Spirit's power to be able to do what God alone naturally does.

God Bless
Mark Adams