1. **Opening illustration:** ***GOOD PLACE TO INSERT A PERSONAL STORY***
   1. EXAMPLE: Rent house / Breaking and entering, trespassing / $250 in my pocket
      1. As far as Amends go, that’s where the story ends
      2. Result not important: obedience to Christ and trying to right wrong is what matters
      3. Not responsible for peoples’ responses.
2. **The Need**
   1. When we sin against someone, we are indebted to them and have sinned against God.
      1. God forgives the sin, but man forgives the debt.
   2. You’re not doing this for you; you’re doing this to love them and obey God.
   3. Thus, if we don’t make amends, it hinders our fellowship with our fellow man AND God, and thus limits our effectiveness (to love God and others),
   4. So, what I’m saying to you right now, is that if you can think of an amends and do not pursue righting that wrong, you are in disobedience. And it will hinder relationships.
3. **Subject**
   1. Step 9, Amends - We make direct amends whenever possible, submitting to God, His Word and Biblical counsel.
   2. Romans 12:17-18 - *Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*
4. **Preview**
   1. Why do we make Amends? Because Disregarded Debt is Disobedience
   2. What is Amends? Righting the Wrong
   3. How do we make Amends: We Try and Trust the Results to God
5. **Why do we make amends?** 
   1. Because disregarded debt is disobedience
      1. Romans 13:8 - *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another.*
      2. Sin of omission if know the good you ought to do and do not do it.
   2. To harm someone is to be indebted to them (could be anyone, organization, wife, etc.)
      1. Relational (trust), physical (hurt) emotional (rage, withdrawn), material (broke something), financial (monetary), social (gossip/slander), legal (crime), Occupational (paid but not working, theft) Debt
      2. Thus, outstanding amends are disobedience (We all know this: car ding/no note)
   3. Disregarded Debts hinder Fellowship with God and Man.
      1. God wants us to be free and unhindered so we can be about His purpose
         1. His purpose is to love God/others (See Matthew 22:37-40) and make disciples in Christ
         2. And it’s hard to say you’re loving others, if you ignore a debt owed to someone
            1. Romans 13:10 - …*love does no harm to its neighbor*…
            2. Romans 13:8 - *…For he who loves has fulfilled the law…*
      2. Fellowship is hindered with God (See Malachi 2, Isaiah 58, & 1 Peter 3:7)
      3. Fellowship is hindered with man (See Matthew 5:23-24)
         1. And thus, outstanding amends, limit our effectiveness
         2. Why: To initiate peace with others out of love and obedience to God
6. **What is making amends?**
   1. Seeking to right the wrong (See Matthew 5:23-24)
   2. What it is not:
      1. Making amends is NOT forgiveness of sins
         1. People can’t forgive sins. Only Jesus can forgive sins. But people do forgive debts caused by sin
         2. Ultimately, we have sinned against God
         3. There is no way to make amends to God
         4. Christ made amends for us / we were indebted to God / And He without sin, made amends for us.
            1. Colossians 2:13-14 - *God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*
      2. It does not excuse sin and puts no expectation on the other person
   3. What it is:
      1. Amends defined: reparation or payment for a loss, damage, or injury of any kind; to “payback”
      2. Amends are one aspect: of the peacemaking process (8/forgiveness, 9/amends, 12/reconciliation)
      3. Amends are one way – it is you cleaning up your side of the street
      4. Amends are for one another: Amends are for the other person; not for your self-preservation
      5. Two things re: Amends:
         1. Obedience and wisdom should always drive amends
         2. Fear of consequences should never prevent it (job, jail, break-up, etc.)
7. **Amends are planned** 
   1. Tools and time: Your inventory and two amends plans in re:generation book to help you.
      1. Not just harms done by me…but sexual inventory, recovery issue, resentments, harm to you (retaliation)
   2. Don’t go running out of here haphazardly making a ton of amends without thinking, praying, seeking counsel…you’re likely to harm others more. Be intentional.
      1. Involve God and others and trust the process.
   3. …submitting to God, His Word and Biblical counsel
8. **How do we make amends? Application: We try and trust the results to God**
   1. After getting biblical counsel, pray and Word – not leaning on your own understanding…”
      1. try to make amends as far as it depends on you.
      2. Two kinds of amends: intangible / tangible
   2. Intangible: relational harm
      1. In asking for forgiveness
         1. Recognize the wrong
         2. Understand the hurt
         3. Take responsibility (there’s no “but” in seeking forgiveness)
         4. Ask for forgiveness
         5. Behavior
         6. Change (acknowledge is only part / repentance and repayment is needed)
   3. Repaying an tangible debt
      1. Ask for forgiveness and pay back the debt
      2. Money / material goods: two options
         1. In full
         2. Payback plan
      3. Counsel for your protection, too. Everything’s in light. Unreasonable accuser.
   4. Be prepared to share Christ
   5. Trust the results to God: What if jail? What if sued?
   6. Try and trust: You think you’re there to make amends. God may have you there to tell about the One who ultimately made amends for them and all mankind.
9. **Closing Image** 
   * 1. **Personal Example:** Remember the $250 in my pocket? Here’s how it ended. Ongoing/learning a process—Step 10. Not a one-time thing; 3xs already this week.
   1. Pray