

## Accepting Responsibility

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other  
so that you may be healed.

James 5:16 (TLB)

**Apology Language #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Every sincere apology *starts* with these words:

\_\_\_\_\_.

NOTE: Every sincere apology starts with those words,  
but most apologies cannot end with those words.

The word that destroys any attempt to apologize is “\_\_\_\_\_.”

**Apologizing is always**

*In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you . . .* Matthew  
7:12 (NASB)

### Why Don't People Apologize?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
That statement shows there is a history of problems and much unresolved resentment.

- Are you OK with not having a relationship with that person?
- Are you willing to be the one who offers to heal the brokenness?

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
This is the infamous “tit for tat” philosophy of life that leaves a trail of broken relationships in its wake.

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge . . .*  
Romans 12:18–19 (NIV)

- Is it possible that the healing of the relationship depends on you?

3. **The belief that apologizing is a sign of** \_\_\_\_\_

Apology Language #2: \_\_\_\_\_

At the heart of it is the willingness to admit

\_\_\_\_\_

No one can say, *"I am innocent; I have never done anything wrong."*  
(NCV)

Proverbs 20:9

### **Two Examples of a Sincere Apology**

*"I'm sorry. I know that what I did was wrong. I could try to excuse myself, but there is no excuse. Pure and simple, what I did was selfish and wrong."*

*"The way I spoke to you was wrong. It was harsh and untrue, and I'm sorry. I spoke out of anger, trying to justify my behavior. The way I talked to you was unkind and unloving. I hope you will forgive me."*

Major source: *The Five Languages of Apology* by Dr. Gary Chapman and Jennifer Thomas.

