

The Peacemaker

Week 4

THE
PEACE
MAKER

REVISED AND UPDATED

A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO
RESOLVING PERSONAL CONFLICT

KEN
SANDE

Four Principles of Biblical Peacemaking

4 Gs

G #1: Glorify God

G #2: Get the Log Out of Your Eye

G #3: Gently Restore

G #4: Go and Be Reconciled

G #2: Get the Log Out of Your Eye

- Overlook Minor Offenses (Overly Sensitive)
- “Conflict Starts in the Heart” (James 4:1-2)
- Progression of an Idol:
 - I Desire
 - I Demand
 - I Judge
 - I Punish

As we reflect on and rejoice in the gospel of Christ, two things happen:

1. Our pride and defensiveness are stripped away
2. We can let go of our illusion of self-righteousness, honestly examine ourselves, and find freedom from guilt and sin by admitting our wrongs.

Restoration Process Involves 4 Activities

1. Repentance
2. Self-examination
3. Confession
4. Personal Change

1. Repentance

- Repentance is a gift from God we should continually pray for, whereby He convicts us of our sin and shows us the road to freedom
- ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

Repentance

- What Repentance is **NOT**:
- Simply feeling sad and uncomfortable
- Mere apology

Repentance

- What Repentance **IS**:
- Literally means to change the way we think
- “coming to our senses” (Luke 15:17, 2 Tim. 2:25-26)
- Waking up to the fact that we have been deceiving ourselves and that our ideas, attitudes, values or goals have been wrong.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

“⁹ As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us.

¹⁰ For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”

Worldly Sorrow

- Feeling sad because you got caught doing something wrong or because you must suffer the unpleasant consequences of your actions.
- Regret fades in time. Eventually you will repeat the same behavior but try not to get caught.

Godly Sorrow

- Feeling bad because you have offended God. Sincerely regretting the fact that what you did was morally wrong, regardless of whether or not you must suffer unpleasant consequences.
- Involves a change of heart- which is possible only when you understand that sin is a personal offense against God Himself.

Examine Yourself

- Evidence of sincere repentance is a willingness to thoroughly examine ourselves so that we can uncover both our mistakes and our sins.

Confession

- As God opens your eyes to see how you have sinned against others, he offers you a way to find freedom from past wrongs: **Confession.**
- Many people have never experienced this freedom because they have never learned how to confess their wrongs honestly and unconditionally.
- Ask God to help you breath grace by humbly and thoroughly admitting your wrongs.

7 A's of Confession

1. **A**ddress Everyone Involved

- Confess your sins to everyone who has been directly affected by your wrongdoing.

7 A's of Confession

2. **A**void If, But, and Maybe

- Best way to ruin a confession is to use words that shift the blame to others or minimize or excuse your guilt.
- “I’m sorry **IF** I’ve upset you”
- “**MAYBE** I could have tried harder”
- “I shouldn’t have lost my temper, **BUT** I was tired”

7 A's of Confession

3. **Admit Specifically**

- The more detailed and specific you are when making a confession, the more likely you are to receive a positive response.
 - Helps convince others you are honestly facing up to what you have done
 - Helps you identify the behavior you need to change

7 A's of Confession

4. **A**cknowledge the Hurt

- Acknowledge and express sorrow for how you have hurt or affected them
- “You must have been embarrassed when I said those things in front of everyone,. I’m very sorry I did that to you.”

7 A's of Confession

5. **A**ccept the Consequences

“You have every right to report me to HR because of what I have done, and I wouldn't blame you if you did.”

“It will take me some time to earn the extra money, but I will see that your property is repaired or replaced as quickly as possible.”

7 A's of Confession

6. **Alter Your Behavior**

- Describing some of the attitude, character, and behavior changes you hope to make with God's help.

7 A's of Confession

7. **A**sk for Forgiveness

- Actually saying the words, “Will you please forgive me?”
- Some people need a little extra time to process the confession before they are ready to extend forgiveness—allow time.

- Not every confession will require all 7 steps.
- Minor offenses can often be handled with simple statement.
- More serious offenses require all 7 steps.

Preparing to Use 7 A's of Confession

1. Address everyone involved

- **To whom do you need to confess?**

2. Avoid if, but, and maybe

- **What excuses or blaming do you need to avoid?**

3. Admit Specifically

- **What desires have you allowed to rule you, and what sins have you committed?**

4. Acknowledge the Hurt

- **How might others feel as a result of your sin?**

5. Accept the Consequences

- **What consequences do you need to accept? How can you reverse the damage you have caused?**

6. Alter your behavior

- **What changes do you intend to make, with God's help, in the way you think, speak, and behave in the future?**

7. Ask for Forgiveness

- **What might make the person you have wronged reluctant to forgive you? What can you do to make it easier to forgive you?**

Discussion

1. Address everyone involved
2. Avoid If, But, and Maybe
3. Admit specifically
4. Acknowledge the hurt
5. Accept the consequences
6. Alter your behavior
7. Ask for forgiveness

- Which of the 7 A's stood out to you as being especially important? Why?
- Which of the 7 A's would be the hardest for you? Why?