

The Peacemaker

Week 3

THE
PEACE
MAKER

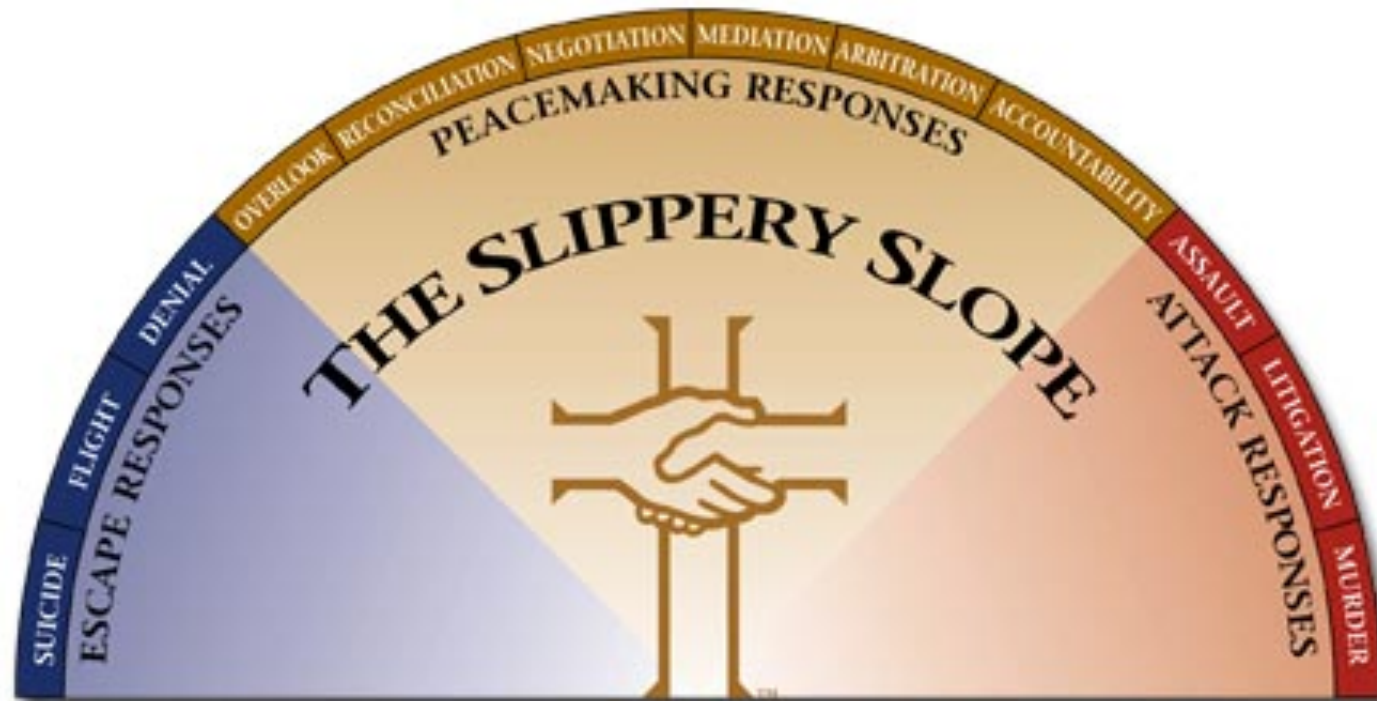
REVISED AND UPDATED

A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO
RESOLVING PERSONAL CONFLICT

KEN
SANDE

Responses to Conflict

- Our natural responses fall on a slippery slope: escape, attack, or peacemaking. Only one honors God.



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

“³ Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴ Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

- Matthew 7:3-5

- Forbids premature and improper correction.
- “Before you talk to others about their faults, Jesus wants you to face up to yours. Once you have dealt with your contribution to a conflict, you may approach others about theirs.”

Examine your role in the conflict

- 2 Types of Faults

1. Overly Sensitive Attitude (too easily offended)
2. Sinful Behavior

- Principles to help discern when an issue should be overlooked or pursued:

1. Overlook Minor Offenses

- “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.” Prov. 19:11
- “The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.” Prov. 17:14
- “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8

“Overlooking is **not a passive process** in which you simply remain silent, but file away the offense for later to use against them. This leads to brooding and resentment-internal bitterness that will explode in anger eventually.”

“Overlooking is an **active process** that is inspired by God’s mercy through the gospel. Truly overlooking an offense means to deliberately decide not to talk about it, dwell on it, or let it grow into pent-up bitterness.”

2. Check Your Attitude and Change it

- Reason for difficulty in overlooking offenses- overly sensitive attitude or tendency to dwell on others actions.

Check Attitude in Light of God's Word

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. **(Philippians 4:4-9)**

a.) Rejoice in the Lord always (Phil. 4:4)

- Joyfully God-centered
- Joyfully Gospel-centered

b.) Let your gentleness be evident to all (Phil. 4:5)

- “Gentleness”- Greek word means: forbearing, large-hearted, gentle, courteous, considerate, generous, lenient, moderate

c.) Replace anxiety with prayer (Phil. 4:6)

-replace anxious thoughts/worry with prayer and petition with thanksgiving

d.) See things as they really are (Phil. 4:8)

- accurate view of others

- don't believe the worst- believe the best

e.) Practice what you've learned (Phil. 4:9)

- Use God's principles to check your attitude and make needed changes– leads to overlooking offenses.

“Conflict Starts in the Heart”

- “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions^[a] are at war within you?” (James 4:1)
- “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.” (Matthew 15:19)
- “And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

- These passages describe the root cause of conflict:

Unmet desires in our hearts.

“When we want something and feel that we will not be satisfied unless we get it, that desire starts to control us.”

The Progression of an Idol

1. I Desire

*We keep fighting to achieve our desire, dwelling on our disappointment, and allowing our desire and disappointment to control our lives.

- This results in self-pity and bitterness towards those who stand in our way.

- At worst, it utterly destroys important relationships and draws us away from God.

The Progression of an Idol

2. I Demand

*Unmet desires have the potential of working themselves deeper and deeper into our hearts.

*Especially true when we see desire as something we need or deserve and must have in order to be happy or fulfilled.

- “If desires are not met, we can find ourselves in a vicious cycle. The more we want something, the more we think we need and deserve it. The more we think we are entitled to something, the more convinced we are that we cannot be happy and secure without it.”
- When we see something as being essential to our fulfillment and well-being, it moves from being a desire to demand.
- “I wish I could have this” evolves into “I must have this!”

- Even if initial desire wasn't wrong, it has grown so strong it begins to control our thoughts and behavior. It becomes an IDOL.
- An Idol is anything apart from God that we depend on to be happy, fulfilled, and secure.

Progression of an Idol

3. I Judge

- When they fail to satisfy our desires and live up to our expectations, we criticize and condemn them in our hearts and even our words.
- When we begin to sinfully judge others, which is characterized by a feeling of superiority, indignation, condemnation, bitterness, or resentment. Sinful judging often involves speculating on others' motives.

Progression of an Idol

4. I Punish

* Idols always demand sacrifices. When someone fails to satisfy our demands and expectations, our idol demands that he should suffer. Whether deliberately or unconsciously we will find ways to hurt or punish people so that they will give in to our desires.

Forms of Punishment

1. Overt Anger

- lashing out with hurtful words to inflict pain on those who don't meet expectations

- only when they give into our desire to give us what we want will we stop inflicting pain

2. Children- pouting, stomping, dirty looks

3. Guilt or Shame- pained look, pathetic attitude

4. Physical violence/abuse

Subtle Punishments

- Withdrawal from relationship
 - Acting cold
 - Withholding affection
 - Acting sad/gloomy
 - Refusing to look at them
 - Silent treatment
 - Abandonment of relationship

The Cure for an Idolatrous Heart

- God calls us to identify and confess our idols one by one and cooperate with Him to remove them from our hearts.
- 3 vehicles to convey His grace to help us in this identification and deliverance process:
 - Bible
 - Holy Spirit
 - Church

Process involves key steps:

Conflict- work backwards through the progression of an idol to identify the desires controlling your heart.

- How am I punishing others?
- How am I judging others?
- What am I demanding to have?
- What is the root desire of that demand?