

The Peacemaker

Week 2

THE
PEACE
MAKER

REVISED AND UPDATED

A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO
RESOLVING PERSONAL CONFLICT

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SANDE

A Biblical View of Conflict

- Conflict: “A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone’s goals or desires.”

4 Primary causes of Conflict:

1. Misunderstandings resulting from poor communication
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinions
3. Competition over limited resources (time, money)
4. Sinful attitudes and habits that lead to sinful words and actions

A Biblical View of Conflict

- Conflict is not necessarily bad. The Bible teaches that some differences are natural and beneficial.
 - Different opinions, convictions, desires, perspectives and priorities
 - Differences not inherently right or wrong; result of God-given diversity and personal preferences

A Biblical View of Conflict

- Not all conflict is neutral or beneficial
- Bible teaches many disagreements result from sinful attitudes and behavior

“The Bible teaches that we should see conflict neither as an inconvenience nor as an occasion to force our will on others, but rather as an opportunity to demonstrate the love and power of God in our lives.”

4 Basic Principles

- “Four Gs”

1. Glorify God

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.(1 Cor. 10:31)

*Biblical peacemaking is motivated and guided by a deep desire to bring honor to God by revealing the reconciling love and power of Jesus Christ.

“4 Gs”

2. Get the log out of your eye

“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 7:5)

- Attacking others only invites counterattacks.
- When we overlook others' minor offenses and honestly admit our own faults, our opponents will often respond in kind.

“4 Gs”

3. Gently Restore

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. (Galatians 6:1)

- When others fail to see their contributions to a conflict, we sometimes need to graciously show them their fault.
- If they refuse to respond appropriately, Jesus calls us to involve respected friends, church leaders or objective individuals who can help us encourage repentance and restore peace.

“4 Gs”

4. Go and be reconciled

“leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” (Matthew 5:24)

- Peacemaking involves a commitment to restoring damaged relationships and negotiating just agreements.
- When we forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us and seek solutions that satisfy others’ interests as well as our own, the debris of conflict is cleared away and the door is opened for genuine peace.

“None of us is naturally inclined to obey Jesus’ commands to love our enemies, confess our wrongs, gently correct others, submit to our church, and forgive those who hurt us.”

* God has provided a way for us to overcome our innate weakness as peacemakers and learn to respond to conflict constructively. His solution is the **Gospel**.

Gospel

- Through the Gospel, the foundational G, the Lord enables us to live out the 4 Gs of peacemaking.
- As we stand in awe of his **matchless grace**, we find more **joy in glorifying God** than in pursuing our own selfish ends.

Gospel

- When we realize that **God has mercy on those who confess their sins**, our defensiveness lifts and we are able to **admit our wrongs**.
- As we accept and benefit from the way **the gospel lovingly shows us our sin**, we are inspired to **gently correct and restore others** who have done wrong.
- As we rejoice in the liberating **forgiveness of God**, we are empowered to go and **forgive others** in the same way.

Gospel

“Through the gospel, God provides both the **model** and **motivation** for peacemaking.”

Peacemakers

“Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then they bring his love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life. God delights to breathe his grace through peacemakers and use them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance and reconciliation.”

Discussion

- How do you normally view conflict — as a problem, an opportunity, or something to avoid?
- In what ways has God used conflict in your past to help you grow spiritually?
- Why is the Gospel central to how we respond to conflict?
- How might your perspective change if you saw conflict as an opportunity for God's glory?