

The Peacemaker

Week 1

THE
PEACE
MAKER

REVISED AND UPDATED

A BIBLICAL GUIDE TO
RESOLVING PERSONAL CONFLICT

KEN
SANDE

Author Ken Sande

- Lawyer and Christian conciliator
- Elder in church
- Dealt with 100s of conflicts that resulted in peace.

Effects of Conflict

“Most of us have observed that these results are not common in today’s world. When people lock horns in a courtroom, a congregational meeting, the bedroom, or the workplace, relationships are often severely damaged.”

Conflicts

- Rob us of:
 - Time
 - Energy
 - Money
 - Opportunities (ministry, business)
 - Destroy Christian witness

Conflict

- Opposite is also true:

“When Christians learn to be peacemakers they can turn conflicts into an opportunity to strengthen relationships, preserve valuable resources, and make their lives a testimony to the love and power of Christ.”

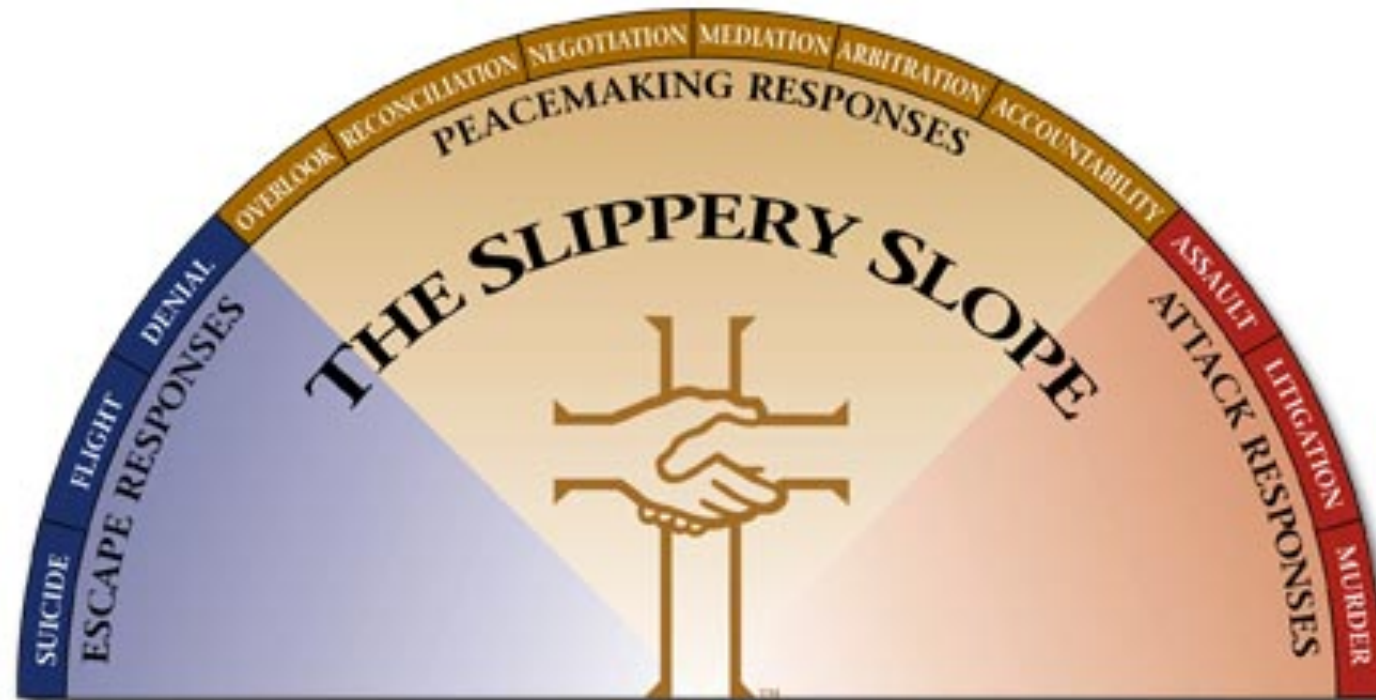
*That is the goal of the book (and class). Simple and yet comprehensive approach to resolving conflict.

Key Scripture

- “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matt. 5:9)

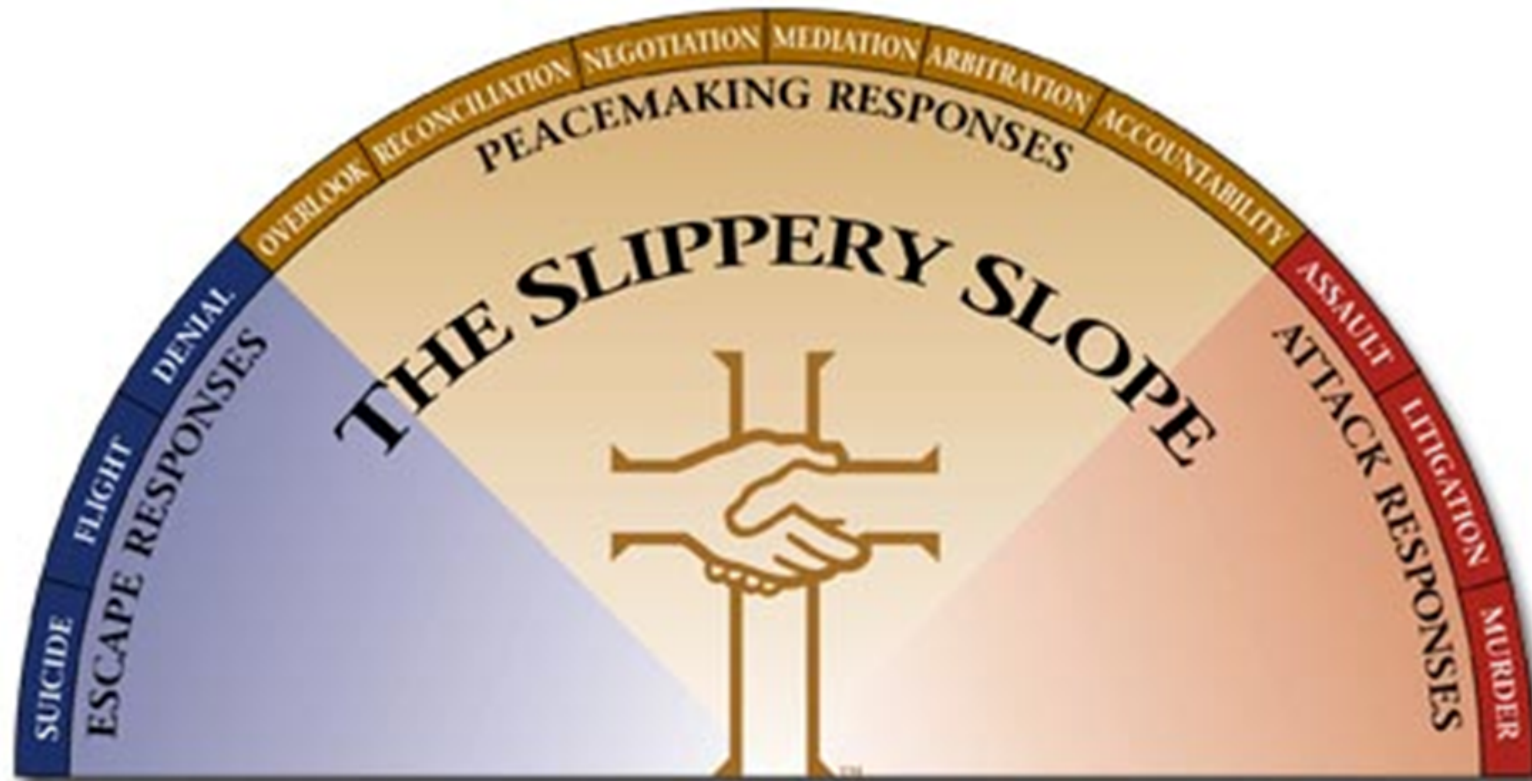
Responses to Conflict

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



Escape Responses (Peace-Faking)

Denial, flight, or even suicide. Avoidance rarely resolves issues and ignores heart problems.



Escape Responses

- People use these responses when they want to avoid conflict, rather than resolve it.
- People usually do one of three things to escape from conflict:
 1. Denial: pretend that it does not exist
 - Refuse to do what should be done to resolve a conflict properly
 - These responses bring only temporary relief and usually make matters worse

Escape Responses

2. Flight: Run away

- Leaving the house, ending a friendship, quitting a job, filing for divorce, changing churches.
- Running away only postpones a proper solution to a problem
- Flight is usually a harmful way to deal with conflict

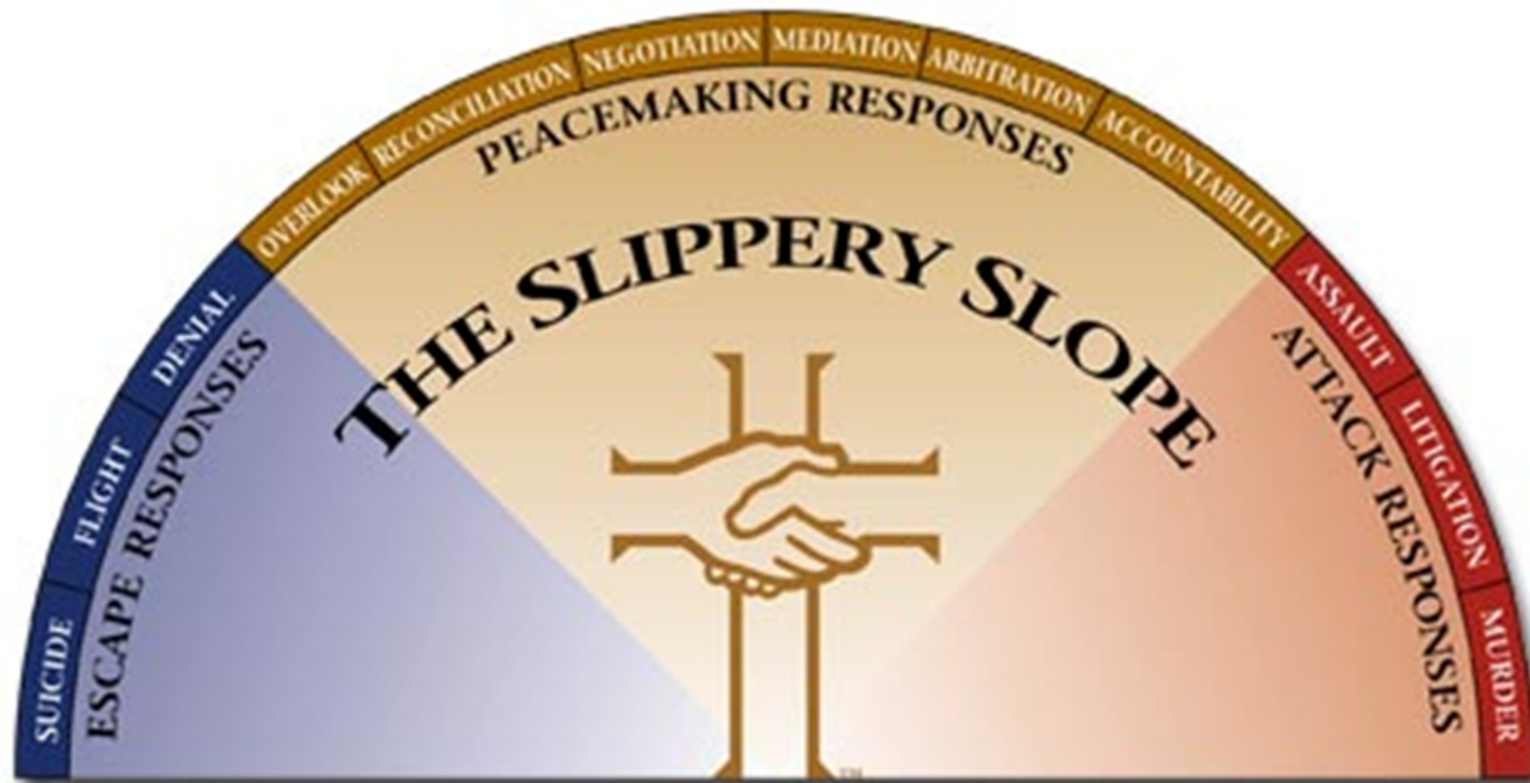
Escape Solutions

3. Suicide

- Seek escape or desperate cry for help by attempting suicide

Attack Responses (Peace-Breaking)

Assault, litigation, or murder. These escalate conflict, destroy trust, and dishonor God (Matt. 5:21–22).



Attack Responses

- More interested in winning a conflict than in preserving a relationship.

1. Assault: force or intimidation

- Verbal attacks
- Physical violence
- Efforts to damage a person financially or professionally

*This conduct ALWAYS makes conflict worse.

Attack Responses

2. Litigation

- Force people to bend to our will or take to court
- Sometimes appropriate but...
 - Lawsuits usually damage relationships and often fail to achieve complete justice
 - Can severely damage Christian witness

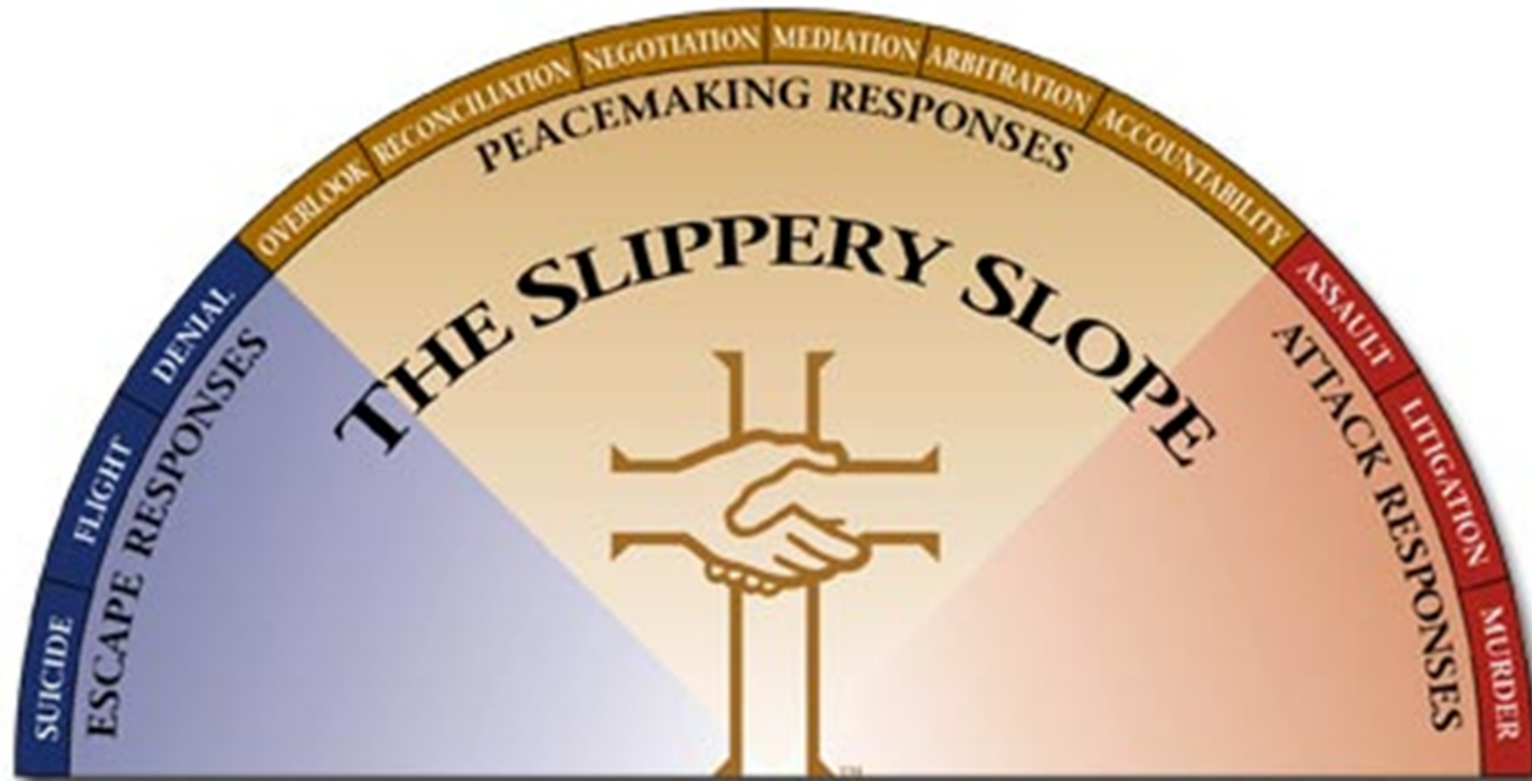
Attack Responses

3. Murder

- extreme- desperate to win dispute and try to kill opposition.

Peacemaking Responses (Peace-Making)

Overlook, reconcile, negotiate, mediate. God calls His children to these redemptive paths (Prov. 19:11).



Peacemaking Responses

- These responses are commanded by God, empowered by the gospel, and directed toward finding just and mutually agreeable solutions to conflict.

*Personal Peacemaking

1. Overlook an Offense

- Many disputes are so insignificant that they should be resolved by quietly and deliberately overlooking an offense

Peacemaking Responses

2. Reconciliation

- If an offense is too serious to overlook or has damaged the relationship, we need to resolve personal or relational issues through confession, loving correction, and forgiveness.

3. Negotiation

- Even if we successfully resolve relational issues, we may still need to work through material issues related to money, property, or other rights.

Differences: FOCUS

1. Escape Responses: Focus is on ME

- Looking for easy, convenient, nonthreatening for me.

2. Attack Responses: Generally focused on YOU

- Blaming you and expecting you to give in

3. Peacemaking Responses: Focus is on US

- Aware of everyone's interests- including God's

Difference: GOALS

1. Escape Responses: “peace-faking” or making things look good even when they are not.
2. Attack Responses: “peace-breaking” – more than willing to sacrifice peace and unity to get what they want.
3. Peacemaking Responses: “peace-making” – willing to work to achieve true justice and harmony.

Difference: RESULTS

1. Escape Responses: End to relationship
2. Attack Responses: End to relationship
3. Peacemaking Responses: possible reconciliation

Discussion

- Which side of the “slippery slope” do you personally tend toward — escape or attack?
- Why are those responses easier than biblical peacemaking?
- Can you recall a time when you used a peacemaking response? How did it change the outcome?
- What would it look like for our church/your relationships to consistently choose peacemaking?

Class Outline

- Week 1: Introduction/Slippery Slope
- Week 2: 4 Gs/ Glory of God/ Gospel
- Week 3: Get the Log Out- Part 1
- Week 4: Get the Log Out- Part 2
- Week 5: Gently Restore- 7 As of Confession
- Week 5: Go and Be Reconciled- Matthew 18
- Week 6: PAUSE Principle- Negotiation
- Week 7: Application