

The Peacemaker

Week 5

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

7 A's of Confession

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

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 #3: Gently Restore

- “If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.” (Matthew 18:15)

“Although it is often best simply to overlook the sins of others, there will be times when doing so only prolongs alienation and encourages them to continue acting in a hurtful manner.”

Sin too Serious to Overlook?

1. Is it dishonoring God?

When someone's sin becomes visible enough to obviously and significantly affect a Christian's witness, it needs to be addressed.

Sin too Serious to Overlook?

2. Is It Damaging Your Relationship?

If you are unable to forgive an offense- that is, if your feelings, thoughts, words, or actions towards another person have been altered for more than a short period of time.

Minor wrongdoing that is initially overlooked but is repeated over and over.

Sin too Serious to Overlook?

3. Is It Hurting Others?

Can happen in various ways:

- Hurting or imperiling others in a direct way (child abuse, drunk driving)
- Setting a bad example/causing others to stumble
- Causing division amongst believers

Sin too Serious to Overlook?

4. Is It Hurting the Offender?

- Direct damage (ie. Substance abuse)
- Impairing relationship with God and others

Scripture on Confronting Sin

- ¹¹ Rescue those who are being taken away to death;
hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.
¹² If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,”
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it,
and will he not repay man according to his work? (Prov. 24:11-12)
- ⁵ Better is open rebuke
than hidden love.
⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend;
profuse are the kisses of an enemy. (Prov. 27:5-6)

- 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)
- ¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)

Speak the Truth in Love

“¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.” (Ephesians 4:15)

Speak the Truth in Love

1. Bring Hope through the Gospel

Instead of coming at them with the law, I am learning to bring them the gospel. In other words, rather than dwelling on what people should do or have failed to do, I am learning to focus primarily on what God has done and is doing for them through Christ.

Speak the Truth in Love

2. Be Quick to Listen

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19)

Listening Skills:

- Waiting
- Attending
- Clarifying
- Reflecting
- Agreeing

Speak the Truth in Love

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
(Proverbs 12:18)

Speak the Truth in Love

3. The Tongue of the Wise Brings Healing

- Breathe Grace
- Make Charitable Judgments
- Speak with Gentleness and Patience
- Talk from Beside Not from Above
- Help Others Examine the Desires of Their Hearts
- Choose the Right Time and Place
- Talk in Person Whenever Possible
- Plan Your Words

Matthew 18 Process

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed^[f] in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:15-20)

Matthew 18 Process

- “A general principle taught in Matthew 18 is that we should try to keep the circle of people involved in a conflict as ***small as possible for as long as possible***. If we can resolve a dispute personally and privately, we should do so. But if we cannot settle matters on our own, we should seek help from other people, expanding the circle only as much as necessary to bring about repentance and reconciliation.”

Step 1: Overlook Minor Offenses

- Before you consider involving others in a conflict, it is wise to review the steps that you can take to resolve a dispute in private. Then seriously consider resolving the dispute unilaterally by overlooking minor offenses and giving up certain personal rights.

Step 2: Talk in Private

- If you have wronged someone else, God calls you to go to the other person to seek forgiveness. If another person has committed a wrong that is too serious to overlook, it is your responsibility to go to the other person and show him his fault, making every effort to resolve personal issues and promote genuine reconciliation.

Step 3: Take One or Two Others Along

- If a dispute cannot be resolved in private, Jesus tells us to ask other people to get involved (Matt. 18:16).
- They will act initially as mediators, meeting with both parties simultaneously to improve communication and offer biblical counsel.
- If necessary, they may eventually serve as arbitrators and provide a binding decision about how to resolve the matter.

Step 4: Tell It to the Church

- If your opponent professes to be a Christian and yet refuses to listen to the reconcilers' counsel, and if the matter is too serious to overlook, Jesus commands you to "tell it to the church" (Matt. 18:17).
- You should inform the leadership of the other person's church (and probably yours as well) of the problem and request their assistance in promoting justice and peace by holding both of you accountable to God's Word and to your commitments.

- Church leaders may consult with the reconcilers and confirm their counsel, or they may conduct an entirely independent investigation and give their own counsel.
- The church's opinion is intended to be binding on its own member (Matt. 18:18-20). The church speaks with the authority of Christ.

PCA Membership Vows

- “Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?”
- “Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the Church, and promise to study its purity and peace?”

Step 5: Treat Him as a Nonbeliever

- God calls his people to act justly, seek peace, and be reconciled with others. If a Christian refuses to do these things, he is violating God's will. If he refuses to listen to his church's counsel to repent of this sin, Jesus says the church should "treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector" (Matt. 18:17).
- Treating unrepentant people as unbelievers is sometimes the only way to help them understand the seriousness of their sin. This may be accomplished by withdrawing various membership privileges, such as communion, church office, teaching Sunday school, and even their church membership.