

Equipped for Conflict

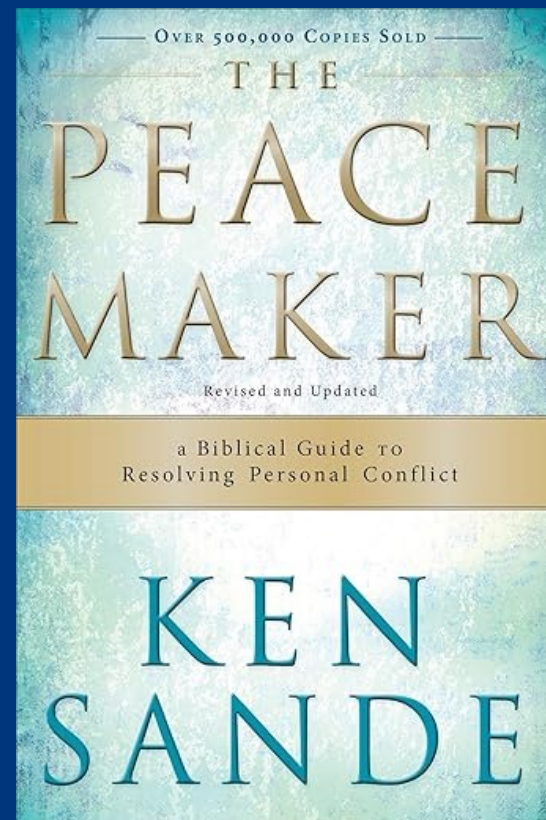
1. 12/21 – Peace on Earth? – Colossians 1:19-20
– Peace is made.
2. 12/28 – May I borrow your chainsaw? – Matthew 7:5
– Peacemaking begins in me.
3. 1/4 – Getting to the Root of Conflict – James 4, Romans 7-8
– Peacemaking begins with recognizing and reconciling my own doubleminded sin.

Inspired by....

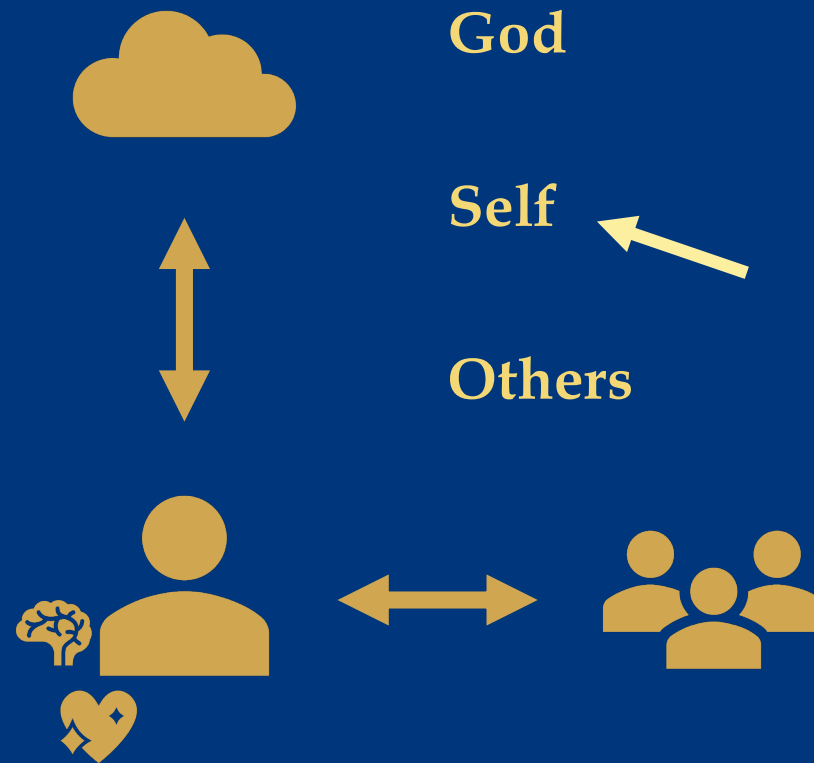
The Peacemaker

A Biblical Guide to
Resolving Personal Conflict

Ken Sande



Peace on Three Levels



Ken Sande – 4 Gs

Join us as we unpack the 4 Gs of Biblical peace making:



Glory to God



Get the log out of your own eye



Gently restore



Go and be reconciled

Getting to the Root of Conflict

Equipped for Conflict – Part 3

Points

Why so much emphasis on self? Jesus said so.

- Much conflict can stop within me before it reaches others
- The root of conflict within me is sin
- Sin springs up in three ways: world, flesh, devil
- Exploring conflict within myself helps me understand conflict with others, because all the same is true for them
- Peacemaking begins with recognizing and reconciling my own doubleminded sin

What is conflict?

A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires

- Ken Sande, The Peacemaker

Root of conflict?

James 4:1

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

Romans 7:15

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

James 4 – world, flesh, devil

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

James 4

- Conflict by definition is double-minded-ness (me & others)
- Sin (world flesh devil) vs Spirit of God
- Pick a side, can't do both
- Submit to God
- Resist the devil

Paul elaborates on James' "double-minded sinners", going deep on the war between flesh and Spirit.

Romans 7:15 – 8:11

15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but **sin** that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my **flesh**. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the **evil** I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but **sin** that dwells within me.

Romans 7:15 – 8:11

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, **evil** lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging **war** against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of **sin** that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my **flesh** I serve the law of **sin**.

Romans 7:15 – 8:11

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of **sin** and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the **flesh**, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of **sinful flesh** and for **sin**, he condemned **sin** in the **flesh**, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the **flesh** but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the **flesh** set their minds on the things of the **flesh**, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the **flesh** is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and **peace**. 7 For the mind that is set on the **flesh** is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the **flesh** cannot please God.

Romans 7:15 – 8:11

9 You, however, are not in the **flesh** but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of **sin**, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Call it what it is... sin.

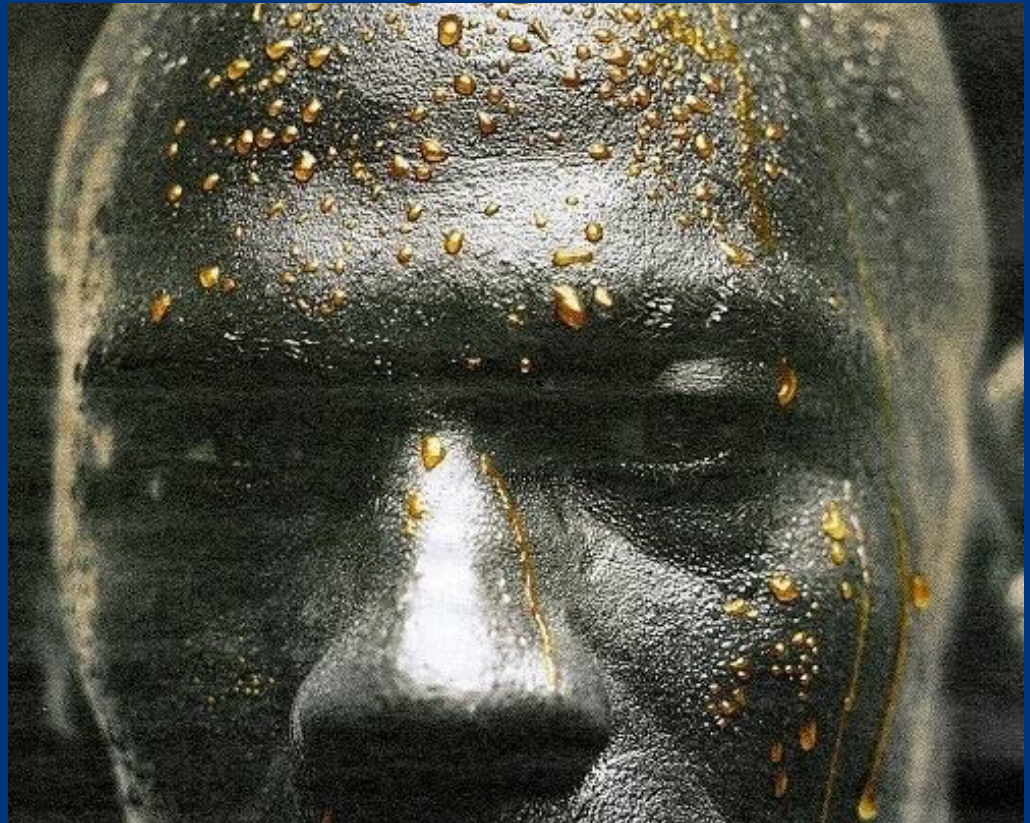
12x "flesh" 7x "sin" 2x "evil"

Romans 7-8

- I don't understand my own actions
- I want to do right
- I delight in God's law
- Inside me is a war with sin – the root of conflict!
- To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace

Is it in you?

When you get hot,
what comes out?



4x “in me” “in you”

Flesh sin death vs Spirit of Christ life

Romans 7 - Sin

[17] So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

[20] Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

[23] but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

[25] Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Romans 8 - Spirit

[9] You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

[10] But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

[11] If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

For to set the mind on the flesh
is death, but to set the mind on
the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:6

Double-minded

Pick a side

World & flesh mindset hostile to God

Paul and James agree on worldly mindset

James 4

4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Romans 8

[7] For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. [8] Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Renewed mindset

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Ephesians 4:22-24

to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The Mindset of Christ

Philippians 2

[5] Have this **mind** among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, [6] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, [7] but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. [8] And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Mindset of Christ

Matthew 16:21-27 – world flesh devil

Satan says: Deny self?! That's not safe. I must save myself.

[21] From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and **suffer** many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be **killed**, and on the third day be **raised**. [22] And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." [23] But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, **Satan**! You are a hindrance to me. For **you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.**"

The mindset of Christ that we must adopt, denying self, not selfish

[24] Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him **deny himself** and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever would **save his life** will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole **world** and forfeits his soul?

Mindset, unity, conflict

- James 3:13 – 4:12
- Galatians 5:13 – 6:5
- Philippians 2:1-8, 3:17-4:9
- Romans 7:15 – 8:11; 12:1-2
- Matthew 16:21-27
- Ephesians 4:17-24
- Colossians 3:1-17
- 2 Timothy 2:22-26

2 Corinthians – the devil in conflict

2:11 – so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs. [*conflict & forgiveness*]

11:3 - But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. [*false gospel*]

11:14 - And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. [*false apostles*]

Satan attacks your mind with lies. If you believe the wrong thing, it bubbles up through emotions into actions... which is sin, conflict!

We respond as Christ did when tempted, with the word of God: "It is written..."

Double-Minded is “Conflict-Minded”

- Endorsing sin – postmodern relativistic believers
- Idolizing “my mental health” (An issue of trust and submission. Satan’s lie: I must save myself. ‘For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’)
- Siding with sinners against fellow Christians

Philippians 3

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Today we see double-minded believers deconstructing and siding with the world against other Christians who uphold the standard of truth. They are virtue signaling that “I am not like those other rigid Christians. I empathize with your struggle (no mention of sin).” This defines “being ashamed of the gospel”, codling the world to win them, gutting the power of the gospel of repentance. We must balance both grace and truth.

Coming full circle...

James 4:1-10 The Root of Conflict

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?

You desire and do not have, so you murder.

You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.

You do not have, because you do not ask.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

You adulterous people!

Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:1-10 The Root of Conflict

Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Submit yourselves therefore to God.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 3

[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ... [18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



James 4

- Conflict by definition is double-minded-ness (me & others)
- Sin (world flesh devil) vs Spirit of God
- Pick a side, can't do both
- Submit to God
- Resist the devil
- Humble yourself

Romans 8

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 7-8

- I don't understand my own actions
- I want to do right
- I delight in God's law
- Inside me is a war with sin – the root of conflict!
- Lose your life to save it
- Set your mind, renew your mind
- To set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace

Points

Why so much emphasis on self? Jesus said so.

- Much conflict can stop within me before it reaches others
- The root of conflict within me is sin
- Sin springs up in three ways: world, flesh, devil
- Exploring conflict within myself helps me understand conflict with others, because all the same is true for them (*humility and grace to confront gently*)

**Peacemaking begins with
recognizing and reconciling
my own doubleminded sin.**

What conflicting passions can I surrender to Christ today?

Ken Sande – 4 Gs – Next week...

Join us as we unpack the 4 Gs of Biblical peace making:



Glory to God



Get the log out of your own eye



Gently restore



Go and be reconciled

John Newton

I Asked the Lord that I Might Grow

1 I asked the Lord that I might grow
In faith, and love, and every grace;
Might more of his salvation know,
And seek, more earnestly, his face.

2 'Twas he who taught me thus to pray,
And he, I trust, has answered prayer;
But it has been in such a way
As almost drove me to despair.

3 I hoped that in some favored hour,
At once he'd answer my request;
And by his love's constraining power,
Subdue my sins, and give me rest.

4 Instead of this, he made me feel
The hidden evils of my heart;
And let the angry powers of hell
Assault my soul in every part.

John Newton

I Asked the Lord that I Might Grow

5 Yea more, with his own mind he seemed
Intent to aggravate my woe;
Crossed all the fair designs I schemed,
Blasted my goards, and laid me low.

6 " Lord, why is this," I trembling cried,
"Will you pursue your worm to death?"
"Tis in this way", the Lord replied,
"I answer prayer for grace and faith."

7 "These inward trials I employ,
"From self, and pride, to set you free;
"And break your schemes of earthly joy,
"That you may seek your ALL in me."

Prayer

Benediction

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.