

Peacemaking: A Biblical Blueprint for Resolving Personal Conflict

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“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Matthew 5:9

1. What is a peacemaker?

“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.”
(Sande pg. 11)

What’s the difference between a “peacemaker” and a “peacekeeper”?

A peacemaker actively seeks to _____ conflicts and foster understanding, often entering difficult conversations with grace and truth. In contrast, a peacekeeper may _____ conflict to maintain a calm environment, sometimes at the expense of truth and the well-being of others.

James 3:16-18 *“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

2. Causes of Conflict (Sande, pg. 30)

Conflict can arise because of:

1. Misunderstandings resulting from _____ (Joshua 22:10-34).
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinions (Acts 15:39; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
3. Competition over _____, such as time or money (Genesis 13:1-12).
4. Caused or aggravated by _____ and habits that lead to sinful words and actions (James 4:1-2).

3. The Opportunities Presented by Conflict (Jones, pgs. 38-41)

1. Conflicts provide opportunities for us to know _____, draw near to him, and please him. (Psalm 46:1)
2. Conflicts give us opportunities to _____ more like Jesus. (Psalm 119:67)
3. Conflicts give us opportunities to _____ and _____ to others: both those with whom we have conflict and those who are watching. (Luke 6:27-36)

4. Responses to Conflict (Sande pg. 22)

1. **Escape Responses:** (Denial, Flight, Suicide)
2. **Attack Responses:** (Assault, Litigation, Murder)
3. **Peacemaking Responses:** (Overlook, Reconciliation, Negotiation, Mediation, Arbitration, Accountability)

Romans 12:18 *“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.”*

5. Teaching Conflict Resolution to Our Kids (Corlette Sande, pg. 22)

1. **The Escape Zone:** Deny, Blame Game, and Run Away
2. **The Attack Zone:** Put Downs, Gossip, Fight
3. **The Work-It-Out Zone:** Overlook, Talk-It-Out, and Get Help

6. Resolving Conflict with the 4 G's (Sande, 12-13)

1. _____ (1 Corinthians 10:31):

How can I please and honor the Lord in this situation?

2. _____ (Matthew 7:5):

How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?

3. _____ (Galatians 6:1):

How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?

4. Go and be _____ (Matthew 5:24):

How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?

7. The Seven A's of Confession (Sande, 11)

1. Address Everyone Involved
2. Avoid, _____, but, and _____.
3. Admit Specifically.
4. Acknowledge the _____.
5. Accept the Consequences
6. Alter Your _____.
7. Ask for _____(and Allow Time).

Reminder: When you go to confess a wrong, remember that you are there to serve the other person and not to gain comfort for yourself.

For Kids: The 5 A's of Confession

1. Admit what you did wrong.
2. Apologize for how your choice affected the other person.
3. Accept the Consequences.
4. Ask for forgiveness.
5. Alter your choice in the future.

8. What It Means to Forgive: Forgiveness is a _____ (Sande pg. 209)

1. I promise not bring the conflict up to _____.
2. I promise not to bring the conflict up _____.
3. I promise not to bring this conflict up to _____.
4. I promise to not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

9. When People Don't Want Peace (Jones, pgs. 183-195)

1. Keep your relationship with God central.
2. Review, renew, and redo your personal peacemaking efforts.
3. Seek help.
4. Frame and follow a practical, Christ-centered, ongoing plan to minister to the other party.
(Do good to them, bless them, pray for them)

Suggested Resources:

Jones, Robert D. Pursuing Peace. Wheaton: Crossway, 2012
Sande, Corlette. The Young Peacemaker. Billings: Shepherd Press, 1997
Sande, Ken. Peacemaker. Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing, 2004
Relational Wisdom 360. 2012-2025. <https://rw360.org>.

Scripture References:

Colossians 3:5-17	Matthew 5:2-11
Colossians 3:22-25	Matthew 7:1-29
1 Corinthians 10:23-32	Matthew 12:33-37
2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13	Matthew 15:1-20
Ephesians 4:25-32	Matthew 18:15-35
Ephesians 6:5-9	1 Peter 4:11
Galatians 6:1-5	1 Peter 5:5-11
James 3:16-18	Philippians 2:1-11
James 4:1-12	Proverbs 19:11
Luke 6:27-36	Psalms 119:67
Mark 7:14-23	Romans 12:18