

D2/D3: Home/Ministry: Peacemaking - Responding to Conflict Biblically

Definition of Conflict:

See conflict as a stewardship issue. Stewarding means viewing conflict not as an accident or an obstacle but as an opportunity. Stewarding means focusing not on specific results, but upon dependent, faithful obedience from a heart of worship that wants to glorify God.

Commands to live at peace:

Rom 12:18; 2 Cor 5:17-21; 2 Cor 13:11; Eph 4: 1-3; Col 3:12-14;
1 Thes 5:11-18; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Pet 2:19-3:12; Mt 22:33-40

Preventative:

Pr 4:23, 10:19, 12:18, 15:1, 18:2, 18:13, 18:17, 21:23, 25:11-12, 26:17-23; Luke 6:45; Rom 14:19; Eph 4:29;
Php 2:3-4; Col 4:6; James 1:19-20; 3:5-10

Definition of Peacemaking:

Different Aspects of Peacemaking:

When I am the offender:

Mt 5:23; 1 Jn 1:9

***7 A's of confession**

1. Address everyone involved (All those whom I have affected)
2. Avoid if, but, and maybe (Do not try to excuse my wrongs)
3. Admit specifically (Both attitudes and actions)
4. Acknowledge the hurt (Express sorrow for hurting someone)
5. Accept the consequences (Such as making restitution)
6. Alter my behavior (Change my attitudes and actions)
7. Ask for forgiveness (Allow time)

What if someone comes to me and tells me I have sinned and I agree:

- Thank them for coming to you.
- Ask them to forgive you.
- Confess your sin to God.
- Thank the Lord for His mercy to you in revealing your sin and for paying the price for your sin.
- Repent.

What if someone comes to me and tells me I have sinned and I don't agree:

Don't be put off when a friend's observations may not be 100 percent accurate. I've found that there's truth to be gleaned at times even from an enemy's critique. Humility doesn't demand mathematical precision from another's input; humility postures itself to receive God's grace from any avenue possible. (C.J. Mahaney)

- Thank them for coming to you
- May want to ask others to help you see your sin (especially if it's an attitude or tone).
- Ask for time to consider what they have said.
- Pray about it and ask the Lord to show you if there is merit in what they are saying.
- Follow up with them!

When I have been offended:

Mt 18:12-35; Lk 17:3-5

****My attitude towards those who have sinned against me should be:**

Humble

Pr 19:11; Rom 12:3; Php 2:3

Gentle

Gal 5:22-23; 1 Tim 6:11; 1 Pet 3:4

Patient

Rom 5:3; Col 1:11-12; Col 3:12-17

When someone else is offending:

Pr 19:11, 27:6, 28:23, 31:26; Gal 6:1; Eph 4:15

*There are times that the other person's sins are too serious to overlook. *The Peacemaker* (by Ken Sande) gives some helpful suggestions for making that determination:

- Is it dishonoring God?
- Is it damaging your relationship?
- Is it hurting others?
- Is it hurting the offender?

***If I need to go:**

Pr 27:6, 28:23; Mt 7:3-5, 12; Gal 6:1; Js 1:19

- Determine if I contributed to the problem and if I did, seek forgiveness first –it may mean waiting to address the other person's sin against me.
- Forgive the person in prayer before going—this will help to be ready to grant forgiveness.
- Go graciously and tentatively.
- Remember my attitude should be humble, gentle, and patient.

***If they agree and seek my forgiveness:**

- I will forgive.
- I will not dwell on this incident.
- I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you (unless admonishment is needed).
- I will not talk to others about this incident (gossip).
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or to hinder our personal relationship.

***What does my attitude and what should my actions be towards an unrepentant offender?**

Lk 6:27-36; Eph 4:29

- Control my tongue and continue to say only what is helpful and beneficial to others.
- Seek counsel support and encouragement from spiritually mature advisors.
- Keep doing what is right no matter what others do to me.
- Recognize my limits by resisting the temptation to take revenge and by remembering that being successful in God's eyes depends on faithfulness, not results.
- Continue to love my enemy by striving to discern and address his or her needs.

***Mini course in handling conflict Phil 4:4-9:**

- Rejoice in the Lord always.
- Let your gentleness (reasonableness) be evident to all.
- Remember, the Lord is near.
- Replace anxiety with prayer.
- God's peace will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.
- Think on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, praiseworthy.
- Find good role models and practice what you've learned.

Recommended Resources:

- *Exemplary Spiritual Leadership*: Jerry Wragg
- ***Forgiveness*: John MacArthur
- *From Forgiven to Forgiving*: Jay Adams
- *Opening Up Proverbs*: Jim Newheiser
- **The Peacemaker*: Ken Sande
- *War of Words*: Paul David Tripp
- *When Sinners Say "I Do"*: Dave Harvey
- www.gbcaz.org
- www.girltalkhome.com
- www.gracegems.org
- www.peacemaker.net