

## (D2: The Home, D3: Ministry) Peacemaking: Responding to Conflict Biblically

The Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

### **PREPARING FOR CONFLICT**

Definition:

1. Worship God, who ordains conflict (Acts 4:27-28; Proverbs 15:18; 18:6; 28:25)
2. Expect to encounter conflict (Job 5:6-7)
3. Despise participation in conflict (Proverbs 6:16-19; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)
4. Resolve to resolve conflict (Matthew 5:23-25)
5. Practice beforehand for conflict (2 Timothy 2:21; Galatians 5:19-6:1)
6. Capitalize on opportunities in conflict (1 Corinthians 11:19)

**PONDERING PEACE**

1. God is the God of peace. (Romans 15:33; 16:20)

God the Father (John 3:14-17; Romans 5:8)

God the Son (Romans 5:1, 9-11; 1 Timothy 2:5-6)

God the Spirit (Ephesians 6:3-4)

“The gospel is the engine that drives the train of reconciliation. Unresolved conflicts between Christians have less to do with people being skillful than with them being sinful.” — Alfred Poirier

2. Peace comes in various forms.

**Vertical** (Romans 5:1-2; Colossians 1:21-23)

**Horizontal**

All people (Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14)

Believers (1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-3)

**Internal** (Philippians 4:6-9)

**Future** (Isaiah 11:1-10; Zephaniah 3:9-20; Zechariah 8:1-15; Acts 3:19-21)

3. Peacemakers are blessed and promised sonship. (Matthew 5:9)

4. Peacemaking is a sign of true wisdom. (James 3:17-18)

5. Peacemaking is the responsibility of the church.

To reconcile unbelievers with God (Acts 2:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

To reconcile members of Christ's body to one another (1 Corinthians 6:1-7)

### **PRACTICING CONFESSION**

The Seven A's of Confession<sup>1</sup>

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 - commit to (and actually!) change your behavior
7. Ask forgiveness
8. Allow time<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from Peacemaker Ministries

<sup>2</sup> In *The Peacemaking Pastor*, Alfred Poirier adds this as the final 'A' of the Seven A's of Confession in place of Ken Sande's fourth 'A', Acknowledge the hurt.

**PRACTICING FORGIVENESS**

“Our need of divine forgiveness is infinitely greater than any forgiveness we might ever be called upon to extend to our fellow sinners. The person who keeps this truth in view will never have a serious problem forgiving others.” — John MacArthur, *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*

“Nothing is more foreign to human nature. And nothing is more characteristic of divine grace.” — John MacArthur, *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*

**Four Promises of Forgiveness** (Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:30-5:2; Colossians 3:12-15)<sup>3</sup>

“Forgiveness is not a feeling. It is an act of the will.” — Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, 206

“To forgive someone means to release him or her from liability to suffer punishment or penalty.” — Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, 207

“Unforgiveness is the poison we drink, hoping others will die.” — Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker*, 208

1. “I will not dwell on this incident.”
  
2. “I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you.”
  
3. “I will not talk to others about this incident.”
  
4. “I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.”

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<sup>3</sup> Taken from Ken Sande’s *The Peacemaker*

## PRACTICING CONFRONTATION

### RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. John MacArthur — *The Freedom and Power of Forgiveness*
2. Robert Jones — *Pursuing Peace*
3. Ken Sande — *The Peacemaker*
4. Dave Harvey — *When Sinners Say, "I Do"*