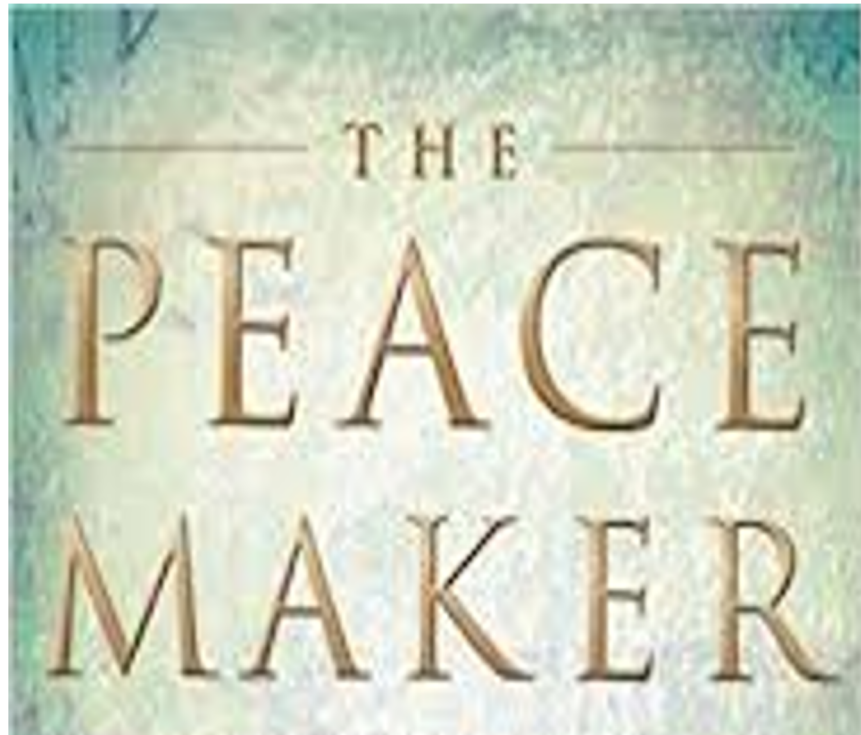


# Living as a PeaceMaker



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This approach to resolving conflict may be summarized in four basic principles, which we will refer to as the “Four G’s” of Christian living.

*Glorify God* (1 Cor. 10:31).

*Get the log out of your eye* (Matt.7:5).

*Gently restore* (Gal.6:1).

*Go and be reconciled* (Matt.5:24).

## Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview



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**Define PeaceMaker:** (Matt. 5:9). Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. (*Grace: God Favor, God's free and underserved love that never quits*). 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 (Gen.6:8; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23).

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview



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First “G” Principle ...

***Glorify God*** (1 Cor. 10:31). Biblical peacemaking is motivated and guided by a deep desire to bring honor to God by revealing the reconciling love and power of Jesus Christ. As we draw on his grace, follow his example, and put his teaching into practice, we can find freedom from the impulsive, self-centered decisions that make conflict worse, and bring praise to God by displaying the power of the gospel in our lives.

Second “G” Principle ...

***Get the log out of your eye*** (Matt. 7:5). Attacking others only invites counterattacks. This is why Jesus teaches us to face up to our own contributions to a conflict before we focus on what others have done. When we overlook others’ minor offenses and honestly admit our own faults, our opponents will often respond in kindness. As tensions decrease, the way may be opened for sincere discussion, negotiation, and reconciliation.

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview



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Third “G” Principle ...

***Gently restore*** (Gal.6:1). When others fail to see their contribution to a conflict, we sometimes need to graciously show them their fault. If they refuse to respond appropriately, Jesus calls us to involve respected friends, church leaders or other objective individuals who can help us encourage repentance and restore peace.

Fourth “G” Principle ...

***Go and be reconciled*** (Matt.5:24). Finally, peacemaking involves a commitment to restoring damaged relationships and negotiating just agreements. When we forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us and seek solutions that satisfy others’ interests as well as our own, the debris of conflict is cleared away and the door is opened for genuine peace.



# Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview

Putting it together ...



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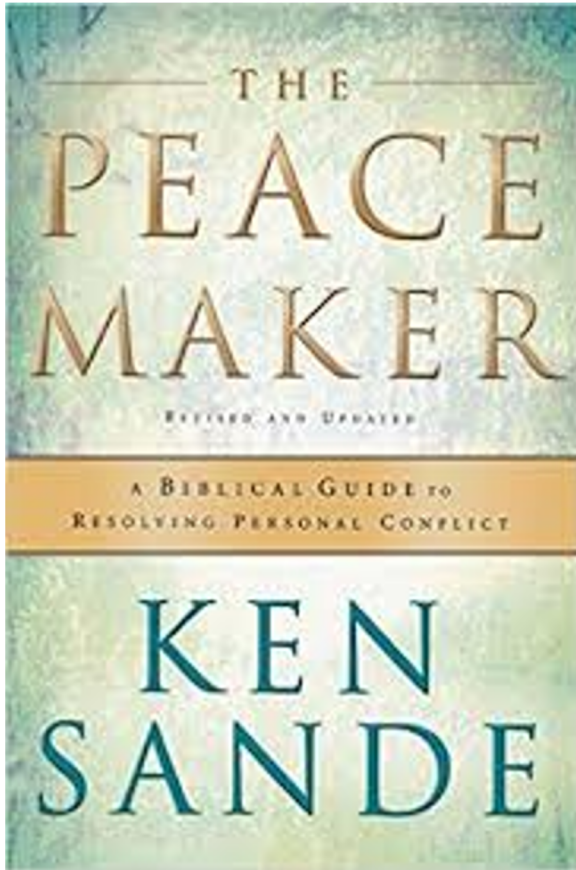
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***To live life as a Peace Maker:* we are called upon to obey Jesus' commands to love our enemies, confess our wrongs, gently correct others, submit to our church, and forgive those who hurt us. If we are born again believers, having the Spirit of God living in us, then we have been chosen by God to live a life that pleases Him, honors Him, and glorifies Him. (John 3:5-8; 15:16; 1 Cor. 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20).**

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Amplified Bible (AMP)

*“So then, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of [our great] God. Do not offend Jews or Greeks or even the church of God [but live to honor Him]; just as I please everyone in all things [as much as possible adapting myself to the interests of others], not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, so that they [will be open to the message of salvation and] may be saved. Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.”*

This passage presents a radical view of conflict: It encourages us to look at conflict as an opportunity to glorify God, serve others, and grow to be like Christ. This perspective may seem naïve and impractical at first glance, especially to someone who is presently embroiled in a dispute. As you will see, however, this view can inspire remarkably practical responses to conflict.



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# Living as a PeaceMaker - Glorify God

Going deeper ...

## Glorify God

*“So then, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of [our great] God. Do not offend Jews or Greeks or even the church of God [but live to honor Him]; just as I please everyone in all things [as much as possible adapting myself to the interests of others], not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, so that they [will be open to the message of salvation and] may be saved. Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ” (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 AMP).*

This passage presents a radical view of conflict: It encourages us to look at conflict as an opportunity to glorify God, serve others, and grow to be like Christ. This perspective may seem naïve and impractical at first glance, especially to someone who is presently embroiled in a dispute. As you will see, however, this view can inspire remarkably practical responses to conflict.



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# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #1



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## Characters

4 Brothers - Joe, Frank, Matt, John

1 Sister - Jenny

## Scenario

Frank was born with a disability that kept him at home all his life. His parents took care of him.

When their father died and mother got sick, Frank took care of his mother until she died. In the will, they established a trust to care for Frank and divided the farm (and land) equally among the children.

## Conflict

Joe, Matt and John wanted to sell the property immediately and divide the money. Frank was devastated by their mom's death, had not left the house and didn't want to leave or sell the property.



# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #1



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## **Perspective**

On one visit, prior to the realtor a potential buyer arriving, Frank locked the house and threatened to hit anyone who entered with his bat. Joe wanted the sale to honor his parents wishes. Matt wanted the sale because he needed the money to pay for his two children in college. Jenny needed the money. Jenney needed the money also but didn't want to force Frank out.

## **Resolution?**

What would you do?

How would you handle this scenario?

Split into groups and come up with a solution for your group.

# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #1



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## Resolution

Jenny called their pastor, remembering his training in peace-making. Pastor Barry counseled the family to consider what was more important--*"to get your money as soon as possible, as most people would, or to demonstrate the love of Christ to their brother"*. Not knowing what that meant, Pastor mentioned to Joe to pray and ask God for a solution that would honor God AND their parents wishes.

After prayer and time, while at a family meal (including Frank), the brothers honored Frank for caring for their mom and said they would sale the land to honor their parents wishes and leave the house to Frank for as long as he wanted, then give it to their children. Frank emotionally hugged Joe, expressed his gratitude and Joe's son said *"there must be a God because there's no way Dad would have done this on his own."*

# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #1



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## Guiding Principle

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31



# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope

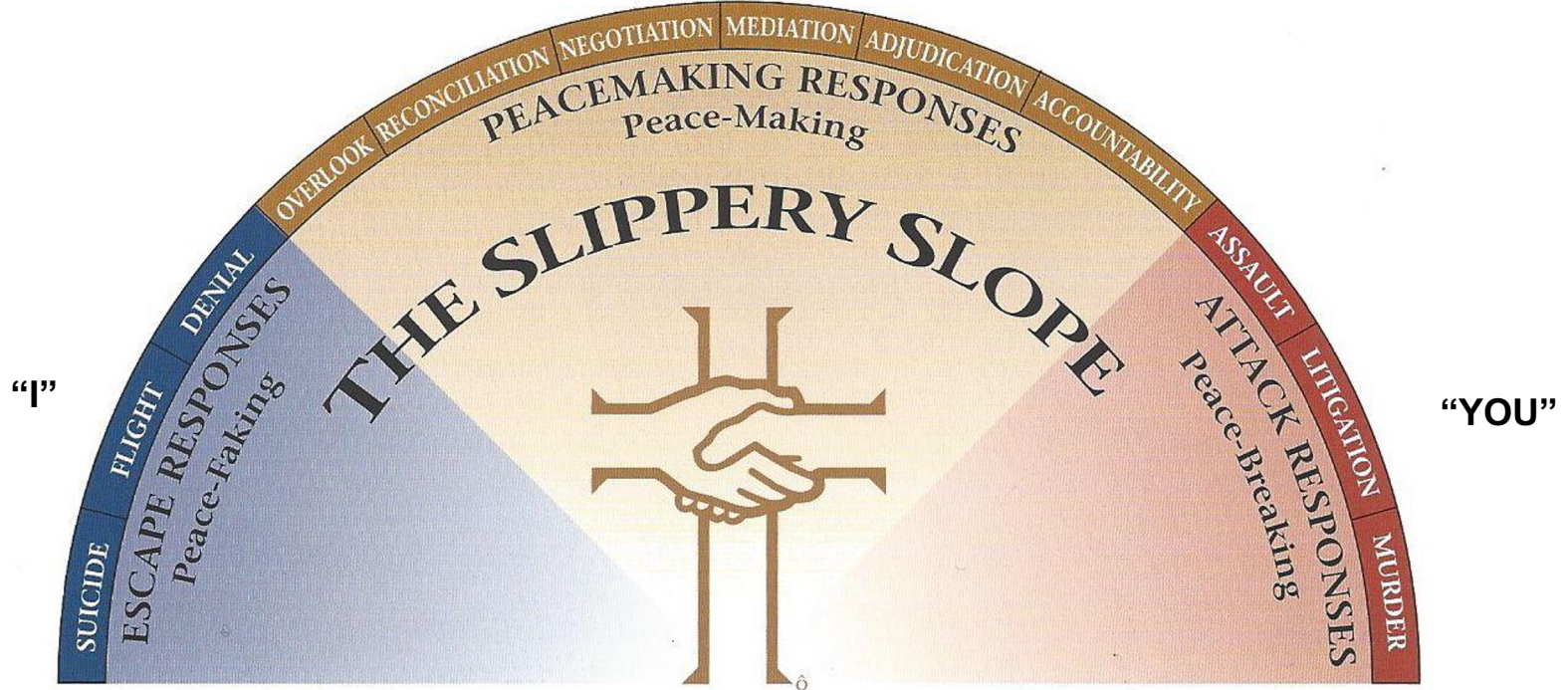
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**STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT**

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Glorify God

Going deeper ...



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**Glorify God** (1 Cor. 10:31). Biblical peacemaking is motivated and guided by a deep desire to bring honor to God by revealing the reconciling love and power of Jesus Christ. As we draw on his grace, follow his example, and put his teaching into practice, we can find freedom from the impulsive, self-centered decisions that make conflict worse, and bring praise to God by displaying the power of the gospel in our lives.

Conflict Always provides an opportunity to glorify God, that is, to bring him praise and honor by showing who he is, what he is like, and what he is doing. The best way to glorify God in the midst of conflict is to depend on and draw attention to his grace, that is, the undeserved love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom he gives to us through Jesus Christ. You can do this in several ways.

First, *you can trust God*. Instead of relying on your own idea and abilities as you respond to people who oppose you, ask God to give you grace to depend on him and follow his ways, even if they are completely opposite to what you feel like doing (Prov. 3:5-7).

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## Staying on Top of Conflict

Harmful conflict is usually triggered by unmet desires.

“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” (James 4:1-2).

Even good desires can evolve into controlling demands or idols that can lead us to judge others and then avoid or punish them until we get what we want (see Luke 10:38-42). This progression often starts with minor differences, but before we know it we're sliding down a slippery slope of conflict that can drop off in two directions.

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope

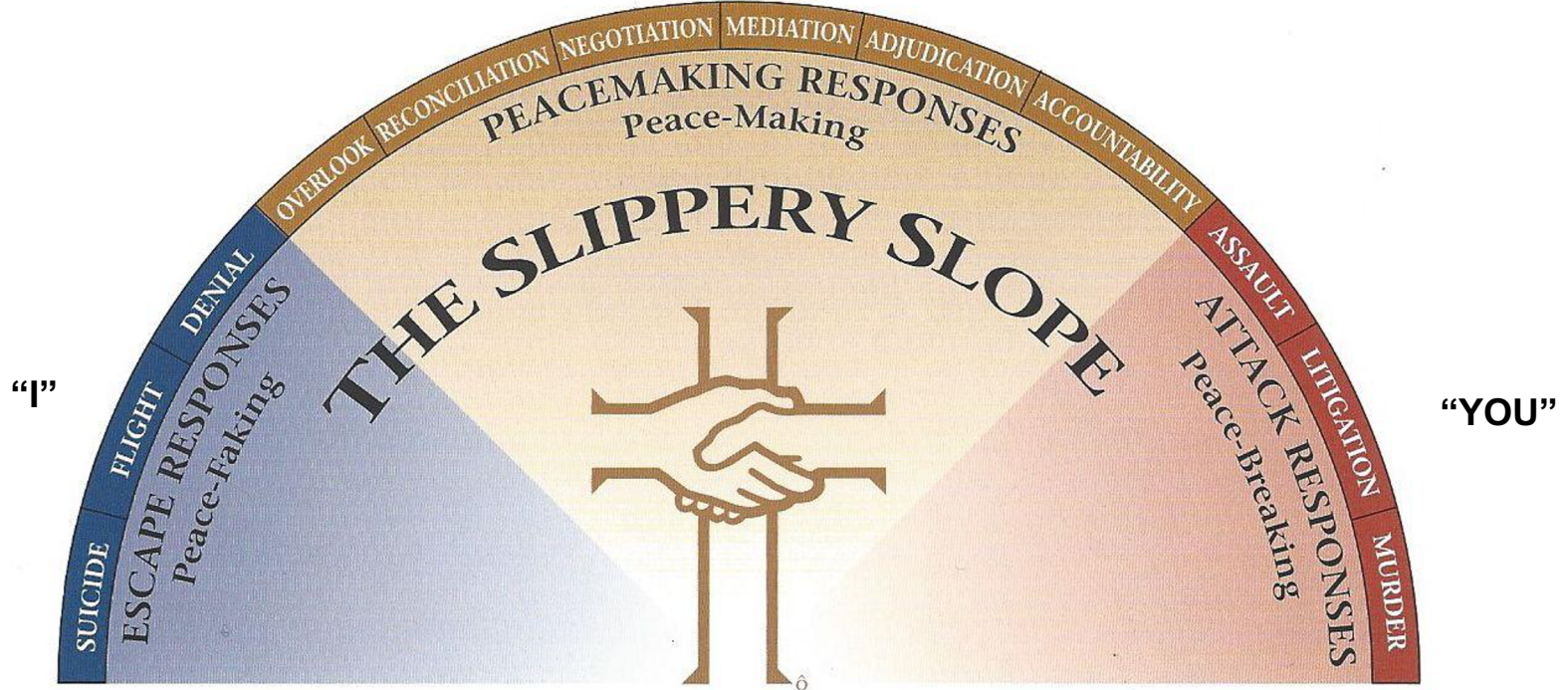
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## STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT



# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## **Escape Responses**

People tend to use escape responses when they are more interested in avoiding unpleasant people or situations than in resolving differences.

**Denial**—One way to escape from a conflict is to pretend that a problem does not exist. Another way is to refuse to do what should be done to resolve a conflict properly. These responses bring only temporary relief and usually make matters worse (see 1 Sam. 2:22-25).

**Flight**—Another way to escape from a conflict is to run away. This may take the form of pulling away from a relationship, quitting a job, filing for divorce, or changing churches. Flight may be legitimate in extreme circumstances (see 1 Sam. 19:9-10), but in most cases it only postpones a proper solution to a problem.

**Suicide**—When people lose all hope of resolving a conflict, they may seek to escape from the situation (or make a desperate cry for help) by attempting to take their own lives (see 1 Sam 31:4). Suicide is never a right way to deal with conflict.

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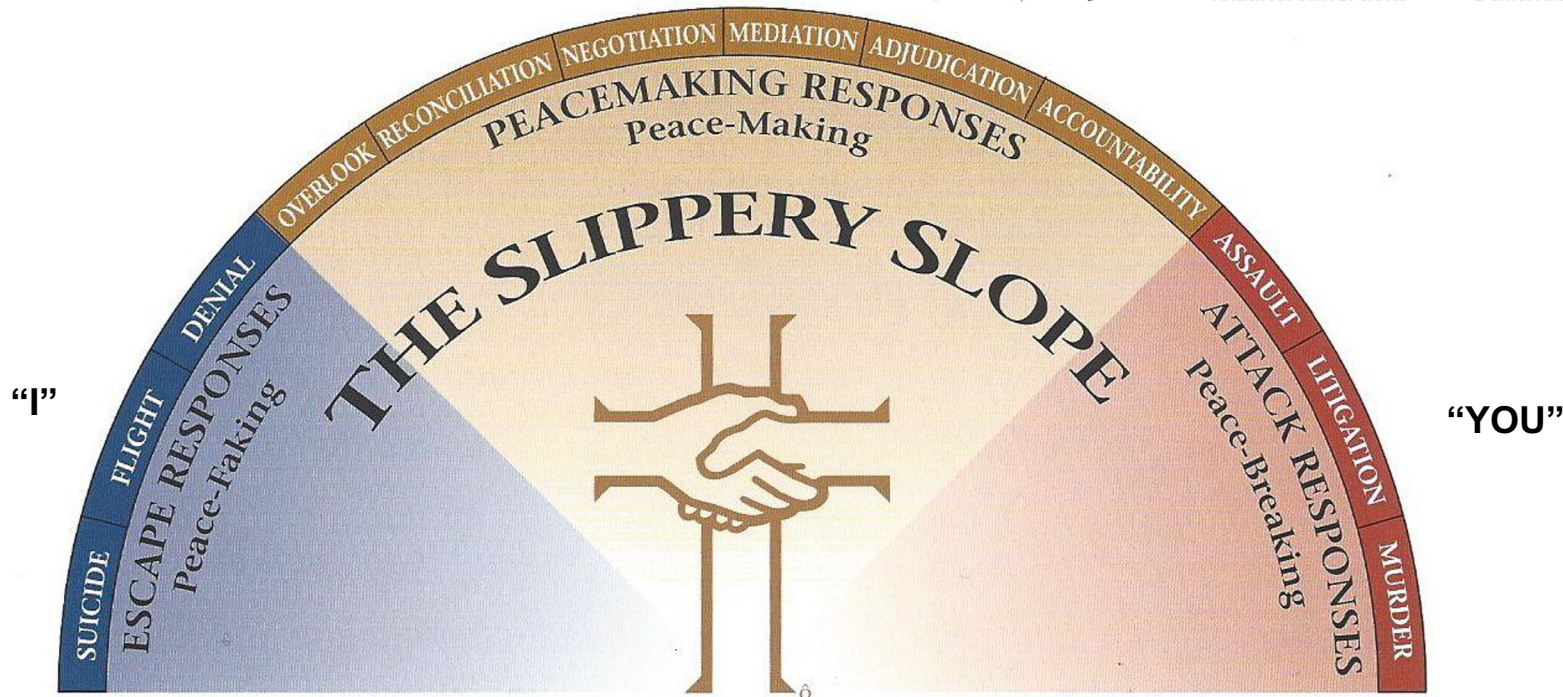
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## STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## **Attack Responses**

People tend to use attack responses when they are more interested in controlling others and getting their way than in preserving a relationship.

**Assault**—Some people try to overcome an opponent by using various forms of force or intimidation, such as verbal attacks (including gossip and slander), physical violence, or efforts to damage a person financially or professionally (see Acts 6:8-15). Such conduct always makes conflict worse.

**Litigation**—Although some conflicts may legitimately be taken before a civil judge (see Acts 24:1-26:32; Rom. 13:1-5), lawsuits usually damage relationships, diminish our Christian witness, and often fail to achieve complete justice. This is why Christians are commanded to make every effort to settle their differences within the church rather than the civil courts (see Matt. 5:25-26; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).

**Murder**—In extreme cases, people may be so desperate to win a dispute that they will try to kill those who oppose them (see Acts 7:54-58). While most people would not actually kill someone, we still stand guilty of murder in God's eyes when we harbor anger or contempt in our hearts toward others (see 1 John 3:15; Matt. 5:21-22).

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## The Gospel—The Key to Peace

The key to changing the way we deal with conflict is the gospel—the good news that God made peace with us and between us by sending his Son to die for our sins and give us new life through his resurrection (Col. 1:19-20; Eph. 2:14-16).

When we believe in Jesus, we receive forgiveness and are united with Christ and one another (Acts 10:43; Phil. 2:1-2). God then begins to transform us into the likeness of his Son, enabling us to break free from sinful escaping and attacking habits and mature into peacemakers who reflect the glory of God's reconciling love in the midst of conflict (2 Cor. 3:17-18; Col. 3:12-15).



# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope

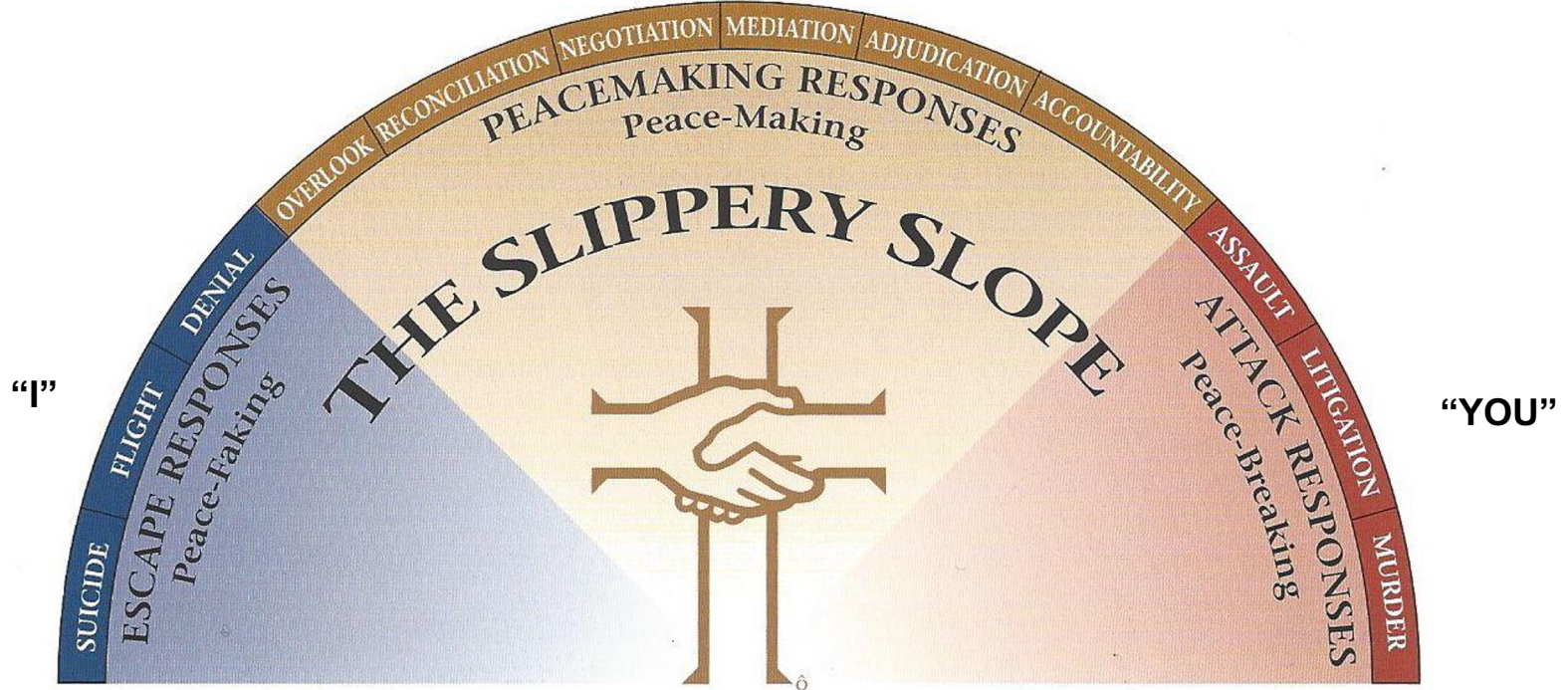
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**STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT**

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## **Peacemaking Responses**

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. Inspired by the gospel, they draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then breathe out his love, mercy, forgiveness, and wisdom to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and model repentance and reconciliation.

The six responses found on the top portion of the slippery slope may be divided into two categories: personal peacemaking responses and assisted peacemaking responses:

## **Personal Peacemaking**

There are three biblical ways to resolve conflicts personally and privately, just between you and the other party.

**Overlook an Offense**—Many disputes are so insignificant that they should be resolved by quietly overlooking an offense. “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense” (Prov. 19:11). Overlooking an offense is a form of forgiveness, and involves a deliberate decision not to talk about it, dwell on it, or let it grow into pent-up bitterness or anger.

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## Peacemaking Responses (continued)

**Reconciliation**—If an offense is too serious to overlook or has damaged our relationship, we need to resolve personal or relational issues through confession, loving correction, and forgiveness. “[If] your brother has something against you ... be reconciled” (Matt. 5:23-24).

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness” (Gal. 6:1; see Matt. 18:15). “As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive” (Col. 3:13).

**Negotiation**—Even if we successfully resolve relational issues, we may still need to work through material issues related to money, property, or other rights. This should be done through a cooperative bargaining process in which you and the other person seek to reach a settlement that satisfies the legitimate needs of each side. “Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Phil. 2:4).

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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## **Assisted Peacemaking**

When a dispute cannot be resolved personally, God calls us to seek assistance from other believers.

**Mediation**—If two people cannot reach an agreement in private, they should ask one or more objective outside people to meet with them to help them communicate more effectively and explore possible solutions. “If he does not listen [to you], take one or two others along with you” (Matt. 18:16). These mediators may ask questions and give advice, but the parties retain the responsibility of making the final decision on how to resolve their differences.

**Arbitration**—When you and an opponent cannot come to a voluntary agreement on a material issue, you may appoint one or more arbitrators to listen to your arguments and render a binding decision to settle the issue. “If you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church?” (1 Cor. 6:4).

## Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope



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**Accountability**—If a person who professes to be a Christian wanders from the Lord by refusing to be reconciled and do what is right, Jesus commands church leaders to lovingly intervene to hold him or her accountable to Scripture and to promote repentance, justice, and forgiveness: “If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not ... go in search of the one who went astray? ... If he refuses to listen ..., tell it to the church” (Matt. 18:12,17).

As you can see, the escape responses only postpone a proper solution to a problem, and attack responses usually damage relationships and make conflicts worse. Therefore, you should generally try first to deal with conflict personally and privately by using one of the first three conciliation responses (overlooking, discussion, or negotiation). To learn how to carry out these steps in a biblically faithful manner, see The Four G's.

If repeated efforts at personal peacemaking do not resolve a matter, then you may need to pursue one of the other conciliation responses (mediation, arbitration, or accountability), which will require the assistance of other people in your church or community. For more information on these assisted responses, see Resolving Conflict through Christian Conciliation.



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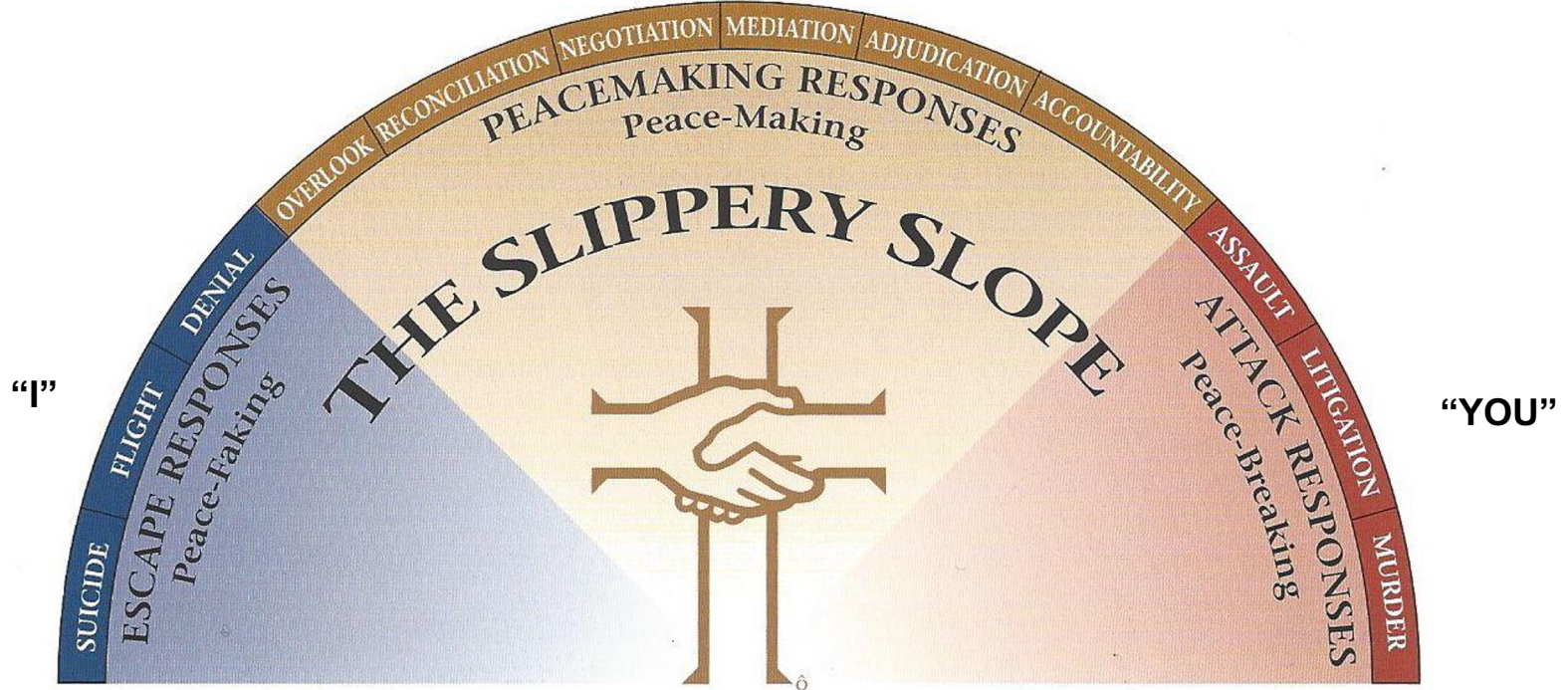
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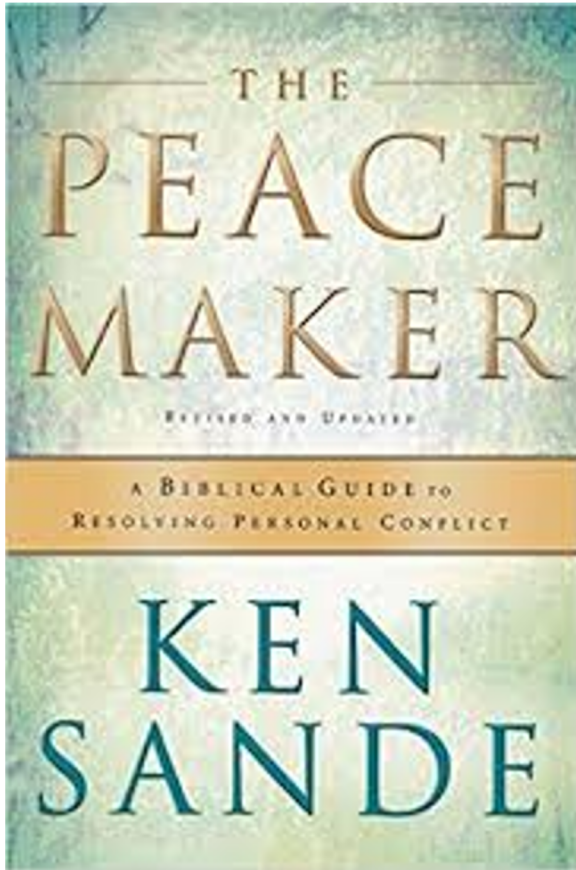
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**STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT**



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# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope

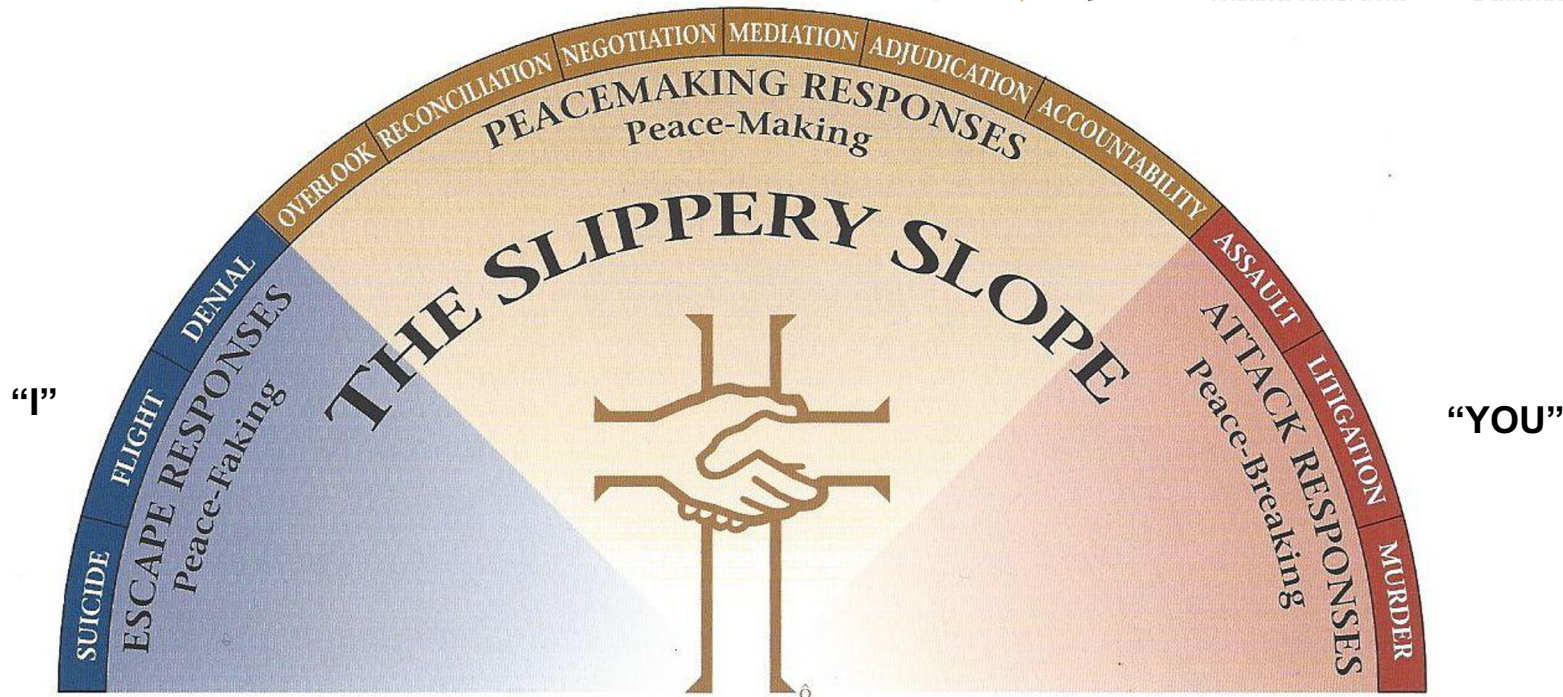
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## STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT

## Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out

Going deeper ...

### Get your Logs out

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

*"Don't criticize, and then you won't be criticized. For others will treat you as you treat them. And why worry about a speck in the eye of a brother when you have a board in your own? Should you say, 'Friend, let me help you get that speck out of your eye,' when you can't even see because of the board in your own? Hypocrite! First get rid of the board. Then you can see to help your brother (Matthew 7:1-5, TLB)."*



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# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #6



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## Characters

1 Couple - Mark and Donna

9 Church Elders

1 Church congregation

## Scenario

The elders refused to support Mark's promotion to senior pastor after a six month period.

## Conflict

The congregation slandered Mark in a church meeting and the elder board stood silently. Some of the elders also talked about Mark behind his back.

## Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #6



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### **Perspective**

Peacemaker International was called in to mediate and after two weeks, the elders had prepared a statement to be read by two of them during a congregation meeting after church service. Mark and Donna read the statement and believed it didn't go far enough in ownership and had prepared to share more.

### **Resolution?**

What would you do, if you were Mark and Donna?

What would you do, if you were on the elder board?

How would you handle this scenario?

Split into groups and come up with a solution for your group.

## Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #6



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### **Resolution**

Instead of two, seven out of the nine elders confessed their sins, asked Mark and Donna's forgiveness and the Holy Spirit softened Mark and Donna's heart. They stood, confessed their sinful role and asked forgiveness. Then, the congregation began to confess their sins and asked forgiveness

### **Golden Result based on the Golden Rule**

*People will usually treat us as we treat them (Matthew 7:2).*

## Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out



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### How to Get your Logs out

*"Don't criticize, and then you won't be criticized. For others will treat you as you treat them. And why worry about a speck in the eye of a brother when you have a board in your own? Should you say, 'Friend, let me help you get that speck out of your eye,' when you can't even see because of the board in your own? Hypocrite! First get rid of the board. Then you can see to help your brother (Matthew 7:1-5, TLB)."*

Goal: Facilitate everyone becoming better off (Matthew 5:9).

1. Commit to righteous judging.
2. Check yourself.
3. Count the Cost.
4. Consider your exercising your rights or righteousness.

Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out

**Judge or Judge Not?**



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**Judging is wrong!**

Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out

## **Judge or Judge Not?**



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# Anyone can judge anyone.



Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out

## Judge or Judge Not?



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Judging is wrong!

**FALSE!**

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## Judge or Judge Not?



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Anyone can judge anyone.

**TRUE!**

Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out



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# **Judge or Judge Not? - Matthew 7:1-5**

## Questions

1. What does it mean to judge?
2. When is it ok to judge?
3. Who can judge?
4. Who can be judged?
5. How do we judge?
6. When should we respond?

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# **Judge or Judge Not? - Matthew 7:1-5**

## What does it mean to judge?

- To judge means to decide.
- Judging occurs when one ...
  - Considers ... Matthew 7:6,15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:4-7
  - Criticizes ... 1 Corinthians 5:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:14
  - Condemns ... 1 Corinthians 5:13
  - Corrects ... 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8; Galatians 6:1-5

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# **Judge or Judge Not? - Matthew 7:1-5**

vs. 1: What does it mean to judge?

- To judge means to ...
  - Consider the circumstance
  - Criticize/Correct according to God's word--if at all



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# **Judge or Judge Not? - Matthew 7:1-5**

vs. 2: How you judge matters

- Before judging others, judge yourself guided by God's Spirit
- God's Spirit is the guide for judging
- God's standard, based on His Word, is the guide for judging
- God's love is a guide for judging
- God's grace is a guide for judging
- God's wisdom is a guide on judging
- God's timing is the guide for judging

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## Judge or Judge Not? - Matthew 7:1-5

vs. 3-5: Before you respond with judgement ...

- Check your misdeed--why are you offended
- Check your motive--why you might need to speak or be silent
- Check your method--how you might need to speak
- Check your material--what you might need to speak

*This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be **quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger**; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God (James 1:19-20, NASB).*

Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out



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# Check yourself - James 4:1-10

vs. 1: What's your inner battle?

- External conflicts often arise from internal conflicts.
  - Is the offense against God and you, or just you?
  - If offended, what *personal* expectation was broken?
  - If offended, what *personal* desire was unmet?
  - If offended, what *personal* battle was experienced?

*What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source **your pleasures** that wage **war in your members** (James 4:1, NASB)?*

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## Check yourself - James 4:1-10

vs. 2: What do you *really* want?

- Hurtful interactions often come from something missing.
  - Are you lusting?
  - Are you envying?
  - Are you *not* asking God?

*You **lust** and do not have; so you commit murder. You are **envious** and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask (James 4:2, NASB).*

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# Check yourself - James 4:1-10

vs. 3: What's your motive?

- Wrong motives satisfy our lustful and envious desires, but result in ill intent towards God.
  - Do you ask God with the wrong motives?

*You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may **spend it on your pleasures** (James 4:3, NASB).*

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# Check yourself - James 4:1-10

vs. 4: Whose side are you on?

- Responding worldly in conflict angers God.
  - Who does your response imitate ... God or someone else?
  - Will your response anger God, based on His character in scripture?

*You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be **a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God** (James 4:4, NASB).*



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# Check yourself - James 4:1-10

vs. 6: Swallow your pride.

- Pride often initiates and inflames conflict.
  - Getting your log out often means humbling yourself ...
    - To trust God in your lack
    - To trust God for provision
    - To trust God for resolution

*But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE (James 4:6, NASB).*

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## **Confess to remove logs - Proverbs 28:13**

Who to respond to concerning a conflict? ... God!

- When checking ourselves exposes sin--pride or otherwise, we need to confess that sin to God
- God removes our logs through confession - 1 John 1:9

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.(1 John 1:9, NASB).*

Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out



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# **Confess to remove logs - Proverbs 28:13**

Who to respond to concerning a conflict? ... Others.

- When checking ourselves exposes our sinful part in the conflict, we should confess it.
- Reconciliation becomes possible through confession and seeking forgiveness - Proverbs 28:13
- Reconciliation should be urgent and a priority - Matthew 5:23-25

*He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion (Proverbs 28:13, NASB).*

Living as a PeaceMaker - Get your Log out



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## **Confessing your fault means...**

- Admitting your fault
- Acknowledging their feeling/hurt
- Asking for forgive



## **Choosing to Forgive means...**

- Deciding not to dwell on it,
- Deciding not to use it,
- Deciding not to spread it, and
- Deciding not to hinder reconciliation.



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Living as a PeaceMaker - Responding

## Cancel or Confront - Proverbs 19:11

Do I overlook & cancel the offense or confront?

- (1) Each offended person realizes their part of the problem and confesses, asking forgiveness - Matthew 5:23-25
- (2) The offended person should forgive & possibly overlook - Matthew 6:14-15; Colossians 3:12-13
- **(3) What about the “offending” person who did nothing wrong?**

*A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense (Proverbs 19:11, CSB).*





## **Cancel or Confront - Proverbs 19:11**

God equips us to to overlook with ...

- Spiritual discernment to recognize God in the conflict and receive what was said/done - 1 John 4:1-6
- Spiritual fruit to *patiently endure* what was said/done from a state of *peace* - Galatians 5:22-23
- Faith to trust God to respond on our behalf - Romans 12:18-21

*A person's insight gives him patience, and his virtue is to overlook an offense (Proverbs 19:11, CSB).*

Living as a PeaceMaker - Responding



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## **Discerning God in conflict**

“Test the spirit by the Spirit ...” - 1 John 4:1-6

- Consider the source ... Are they godly or ungodly?
- Consider the substance ... Does it match or mismatch the bible?
- Consider the supporters ... Are they worldly or godly?

*Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world (1 John 4:1, NLT).*



# Overlooking is not passive

“Live peaceably with all men ...”

- Never respond with evil intentions, words or actions
- Be noticeably honorable--sweet not sassy, holy not hurtful
- Be loving in word and deed, leaving room for God to act

*Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone (Romans 12:18, NLT).*

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**What about the “offending”  
person who did nothing wrong?**



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Living as a PeaceMaker - Responding

# Peacemaking includes suffering

Righteous responses and actions don't prevent suffering - Matthew 5:9-12, 2 Timothy 3:12, 1 Peter 4:12-19

- Endure the suffering; rejoice in the blessing; look to the reward

*So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you (1 Peter 4:19, NLT).*

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# **Peacemaking sometimes means correcting**

If led by God to correct, follow Philippians 4:4-9

- vs. 2: Maintain the goal of settling disagreements as family
- vs. 4: Replace bitterness, anger with joy based on God's goodness to you before confronting others
- vs. 5: Communicate with gentleness--being considerate, gracious, merciful--as an example before others

*Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon (Philippians 4:5, NLT).*



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# **Peacemaking sometimes means correcting**

If led by God to correct, follow Philippians 4:4-9

- vs. 6: Exchange anxieties and issues to the Lord through supplication and thanksgiving for His peace
- Vs. 7-9: Respond when having inner peace, thinking God-honoring thoughts, putting His word practice as if God was with you in that very moment

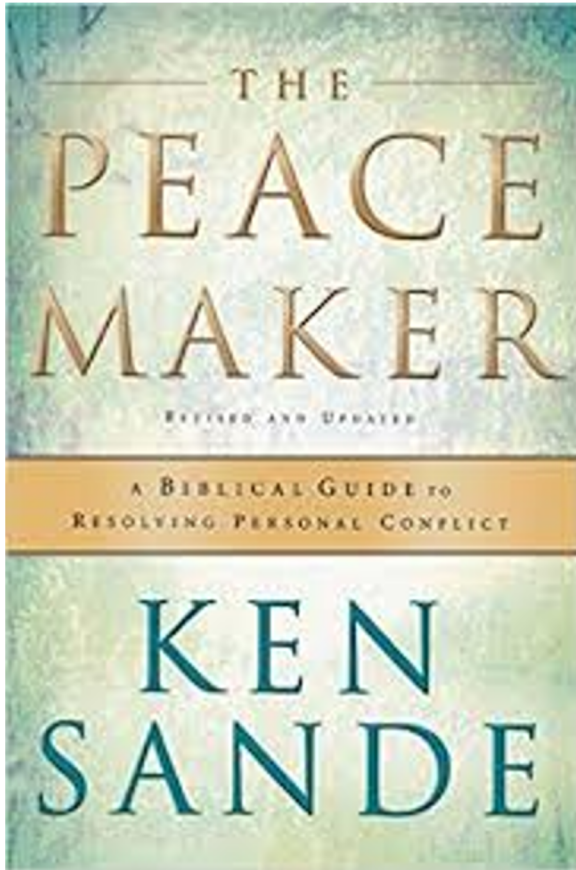
*Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon (Philippians 4:5, NLT).*



# Summary for Getting the Log out

## Biblical principles to handling conflict

- Understand our role is to correct (judge) using on God's word--starting with ourselves first.
- The way we correct, if we need to, is how others could respond.
- We respond if we need to confess our own fault in the manner.
- We forgive if we've been offended.
- We overlook if God was speaking/acting to receive His message.
- We correct, if led by God, according to Philippians 4:4-9



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### References:

- Sande, K. (2004). **The peacemaker: A biblical guide to resolving personal conflict (3rd ed.)**. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

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# Living as a PeaceMaker - Gently Restore

Going deeper ...

## **Gently Restore**

*How do I lovingly, gently and meekly restore “fallen” brothers and sisters?*

*“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load. (Galatians 6:1-5, NASB).”*



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# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #7



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## Characters

Janet - a school teacher and Christian

Larry - a school teacher and Christian

Teachers - observers and victims

## Scenario

Larry is sarcastic in treatment of others and offensive.

## Conflict

Janet lashed out at Larry after having enough, but sought forgiveness for her action with him and others. She also planned to confront him about his sarcastic words and behavior. When she did, he resisted at first.



# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #7



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## **Perspective**

Teachers were calling Larry a hypocrite for his behavior.

## **Resolution?**

What would you say to Larry, if you were Janet?

How would you respond to Janet, if you were Larry?

How would you guide someone in this scenario?

Split into groups and come up with a solution for your group.



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## Living as a PeaceMaker - Gently Restore

### How to love through restoration

*"Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load. (Galatians 6:1-5, NASB)."*

Goal: Love like Christ in restoring those caught in sin (Galatians 6:1-2).

1. Recognize the sin.
2. Render help towards repentance.
3. Restore.

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**Caught in sin or “overtaken”/bound in sin?**

We should be looking  
for sin in our brothers  
and sisters.

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## **Reconcile vs. Restore**



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# Restoration includes Reconciliation.

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**Caught in sin or “overtaken”/bound in sin?**

**FALSE!**  
We should be looking  
for sin in our brothers  
and sisters.

Living as a PeaceMaker - Gently Restore

## Reconcile vs. Restore



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Restoration includes  
**FALSE!**  
Reconciliation.

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**I am my brother's keeper**



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What does it mean to be a  
“brother's keeper”?



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# **Recognize sin? - Matthew 7:1-6; Galatians 6:1**

Questions to guide the need for “confrontation”

1. Is it sin that's deliberate or a misdeed/misstep/mistake?
2. Is it sin that dishonors God?
3. Is it sin that damages relationships?
4. Is it sin that can destroy others or themselves?

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# **Reconcile - Matthew 7:1-6; 18:15-22**

## Principles for “confrontation”

1. Check yourself first.
2. Converse, face-to-face, privately, to win your brother/sister.
3. If no agreement, confront as a Spirit-led group.
4. If no agreement, discipline as a church.

Prepare to share, remembering ...

- James 1:19-20, Romans 2:4; 1 Timothy 5:1; Titus 1:13

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## **Don't stop; Restore - Galatians 6:1-2**

- Confrontation without restoration leads to legalism.
- Legalistic mindsets recognize/confront sin without meekness/gentleness.
- Love beats legalism and is the mindset and right motive for restoration.
- Love, as a mindset, helps one gently restore.

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## **How to Restore - Galatians 6:1-2**

Be mindful that the sin is from some burden of:

- Brokenness needing repair
- Disorder needing re-ordering
- Mistakes needing to be rectified

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## **How to Restore - Galatians 6:1-2**

The burden is an extra weight, not normal load, taken through temptation, deception, distraction, ignorance, and weakness.

Doing restoration is helping carry, deal with or modeling how to deal with the weight and/or consequences of the burden--all while helping repair, reorder or rectify with a spirit of gentleness motivated by love.

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# **Who can Restore - Galatians 6:1 ... Spiritual**

Spirit-led believers who:

- selflessly carry other's burdens ... Romans 15:1
- discern the value/quality of things ... 1 Corinthians 2:15
- are not carnal or fleshly ... 1 Corinthians 3:1
- recognize God and His Word in matters ... 1 Corinthians 14:37

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# **Who can Restore - Galatians 6:1 ... Spiritual**

Spirit-led believers who:

- love like Christ ... Galatians 6:2
- mildly and meekly engage with fallen believers ... 1 Timothy 5:1; Titus 1:13
- avoid or get assistance with areas of personal temptation ... Galatians 6:1



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# **How to Restore - Galatians 6:1-2 ... Carry**

Peace-Makers restore by (1 Thessalonians 5:14-22):

- Encouraging
- Instructing
- Rebuking and Correcting
- Admonishing
- Counseling
- Giving ... time, stuff/money, prayer, help

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# **How to be restored - Galatians 6:3-5**

Some ways to be restored:

- Humble yourself to receive help.
- Don't compare yourself to others' sins.
- Be responsible for your life and God-given work.



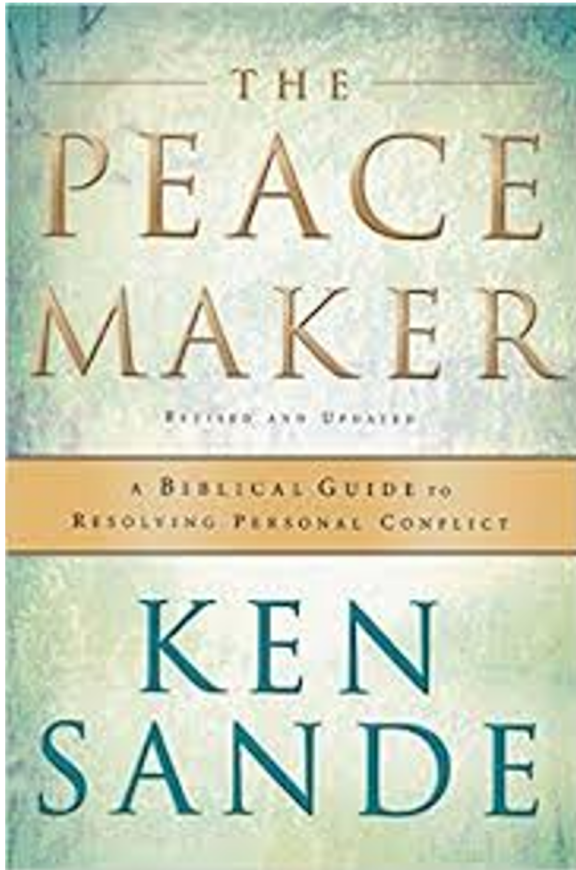
## **A biblical word on the conversation ...**

*Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person" (Colossians 4:6, NASB).*

### **Make charitable judgements**

- Believe the best about a person
- 1 Corinthians 13:6-7
- Matthew 7:12
- James 4:11-12

*"Your attitude carries more weight than your actual words".*



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### References:

- Sande, K. (2004). **The peacemaker: A biblical guide to resolving personal conflict (3rd ed.)**. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

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## Living as a PeaceMaker - Go and be Reconciled

Going deeper ...



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### **Go and be reconciled**

*What does it mean to be reconciled?*

*"First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:24, NLT)."*

# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #8



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## Characters

Pam – wife

Rick – husband

Pastor

## Scenario

Pam committed adultery against Rick. Pam confessed and Rick said the words “I forgive you” to Pam.

## Conflict

Rick has been saying to Pam he doesn’t know if he could ever trust her again and be “with” her again. Pam has been becoming depressed and distant as a result.



# Living as a PeaceMaker - A Case Study #8



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## **Perspective**

Rick sought counsel from the Pastor

## **Resolution?**

What would you say to Rick, if you were the Pastor?

How would you respond to Rick, if you were Pam?

How would you respond to Pam, if you were Rick?

Split into groups and come up with a solution for your group.

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**What is forgiveness?**



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*To forgive means to forget.*

*-- True/False?*

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## **What is forgiveness?**

*To forgive means to forget.*

*-- False!*

*"I, I [alone,] am the one who wipes out your wrongdoings  
for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins"  
(Isaiah 43:25, NASB20).*

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**What is forgiveness?**

*You can feel it when you really forgive.*

*-- True/False?*

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## **What is forgiveness?**

*You can feel it when you really forgive.*

*-- False!*

*"FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TOWARD THEIR  
WRONGDOINGS, AND THEIR SINS I WILL NO LONGER  
REMEMBER" (Hebrews 8:12, NASB20).*

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## **What is forgiveness?**

*Forgiving an offense is like excusing it.*

*-- True/False?*

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## **What is forgiveness?**

*Forgiving an offense is like excusing it.*

*-- False!*

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NASB20).*

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**What is forgiveness?**



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*Only forgive if they repent.*

*-- True/False?*



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## **What is forgiveness?**

*Only forgive if they repent.*

*-- True/False!*

*""Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him"" (Luke 17:3-4, NASB20).*

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# What is forgiveness?

*Forgive means to remove, release, remit/cancel*

*Christian Peacemakers are to forgive like God!*

- *Ephesians 4:32 ... “forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you”*
- *Colossians 3:13 ... “just as the Lord forgave, so must you do also”*

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## **Forgiving like God means ...**

- Choosing not to dwell on it
- Choosing not to spread it
- Choosing not to bring it up and weaponize it
- Choosing not to let it hinder restoration

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# Confessing your fault means...

- *Acknowledging all involved*
- *Avoiding If, but, and maybe*
- Admitting your fault
- Acknowledging their feeling/hurt
- Asking for forgiveness

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## Confessing your fault means...

- Accept any consequences
- Alter your behavior ... *“I repent”*

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# Practicing reconciliation

- Forgive or seek forgiveness
- Allow the repentant person an opportunity to demonstrate repentance and regain trust ...1  
Corinthians 13:1-8a; Galatians 5:22-23

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# Practicing reconciliation

- Forgive in thought ... Luke 6:27-28
- Forgive in word ... 2 Corinthians 2:7
- Forgive in deed ... 1 John 3:18

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# **Forgiveness yields reconciliation**

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# **Resolving conflict yields peace and restoration**



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# Resolving Conflict

- Conflict is natural but can be symptoms of deeper issues.
- Resolution is a process of solving a problem or reaching an agreement to bring about peace.

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# Resolving Conflict

How would you resolve the following conflict?

Jim and Julie Johnson had school-age children and were neighbors to Steve and Sally Smith—who had a dog (Molly) who barked a lot. The barking occurred late at night and kept up the Johnsons.

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# Resolving Conflict



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- Conflict is a clash, contention or a sharp disagreement over an interest, idea, etc. because of imperfect humans with varying goals, desires, beliefs, attitudes.
- Conflict is not the problem; our reaction to conflict is the problem.

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# Resolving Conflict



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- Resolution can involve forgiveness, submission R.E.A.L. listening, and/or negotiation
- We can NOT get along unless we are in basic agreement ... Amos 3:3



## Resolving Conflict

- We are ordered by the God of the Bible to be at peace with one another—a much a possible ... Romans 12:17-21
- Unresolved conflict can lead to resentment, sin, and unfulfilled purpose ... Psalm 34:14

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# **Resolving Conflict**

How we communicate and cooperate matters.

- Philippians 2:1-5
- Romans 12:9-10



# How to resolve conflict—listen for R.E.A.L.

- Get the REAL Report (Truth)
- Get the REAL Emotions (Feelings)
- Get the REAL Absolutes (Importance)
- Get the REAL Longing (how much they desire it)

Living as a PeaceMaker – Go and be Reconciled

## Resolving Conflict



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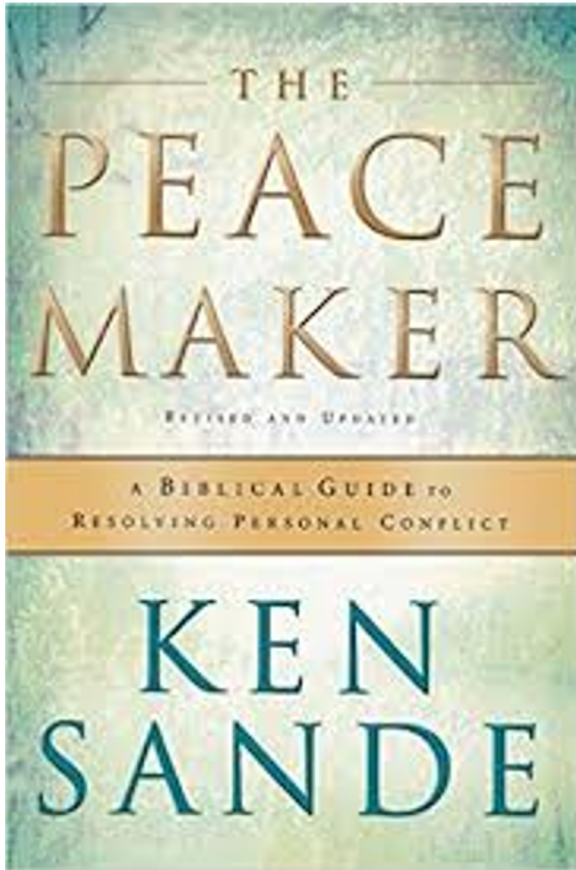
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### How does one resolve conflict?

1. Prepare (pray, get the facts, seek godly counsel, develop options)
2. Affirm relationships (show genuine concern and respect for others)
3. Understand interests (identify others' concerns, desires, needs, limitations, or fears)
4. Search for creative solutions (prayerful brainstorming)
5. Evaluate options objectively and reasonably (evaluate, don't argue)





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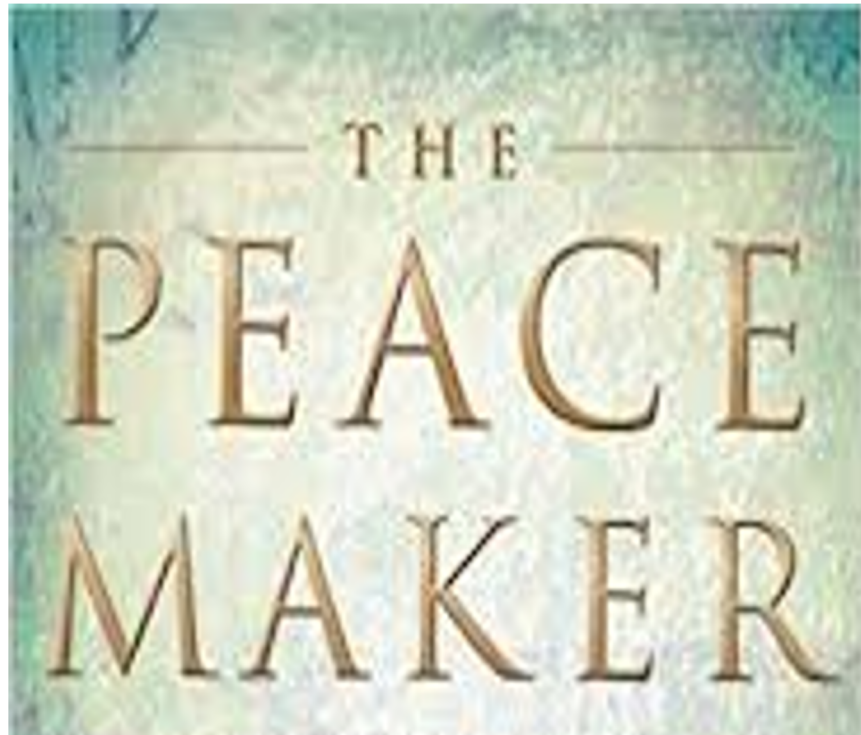
### References:

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THE

PEACE  
MAKER

# Living as a PeaceMaker



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This approach to resolving conflict may be summarized in four basic principles, which are referred to as the “Four G’s” of Christian living.

*Glorify God* (1 Cor. 10:31).

*Get the log out of your eye* (Matt.7:5).

*Gently restore* (Gal.6:1).

*Go and be reconciled* (Matt.5:24).

## Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview



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**Define PeaceMaker:** (Matt. 5:9). Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. (*Grace: God Favor, God's free and underserved love that never quits*). 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 (Gen.6:8; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 6:23).



# Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview



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First “G” Principle ...

***Glorify God*** (1 Cor. 10:31). Biblical peacemaking is motivated and guided by a deep desire to bring honor to God by revealing the reconciling love and power of Jesus Christ. As we draw on his grace, follow his example, and put his teaching into practice, we can find freedom from the impulsive, self-centered decisions that make conflict worse, and bring praise to God by displaying the power of the gospel in our lives.

Second “G” Principle ...

***Get the log out of your eye*** (Matt. 7:5). Attacking others only invites counterattacks. This is why Jesus teaches us to face up to our own contributions to a conflict before we focus on what others have done. When we overlook others’ minor offenses and honestly admit our own faults, our opponents will often respond in kindness. As tensions decrease, the way may be opened for sincere discussion, negotiation, and reconciliation.

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Overview



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Third “G” Principle ...

***Gently restore*** (Gal.6:1). When others fail to see their contribution to a conflict, we sometimes need to graciously show them their fault. If they refuse to respond appropriately, Jesus calls us to involve respected friends, church leaders or other objective individuals who can help us encourage repentance and restore peace.

Fourth “G” Principle ...

***Go and be reconciled*** (Matt.5:24). Finally, peacemaking involves a commitment to restoring damaged relationships and negotiating just agreements. When we forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us and seek solutions that satisfy others’ interests as well as our own, the debris of conflict is cleared away and the door is opened for genuine peace.

# Living as a PeaceMaker - Conflict Slope

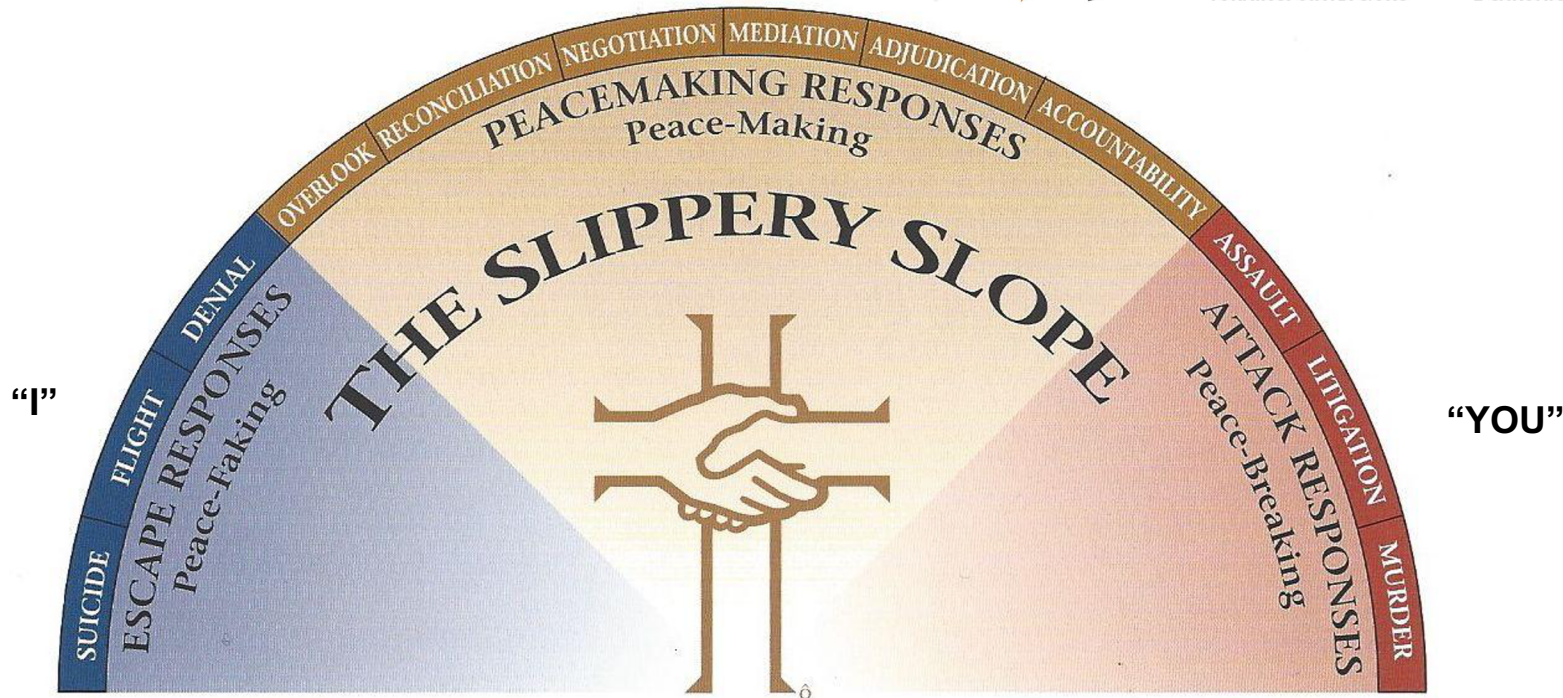
“WE--God and us”



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**STAYING ON TOP OF CONFLICT**

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# Confessing your fault means...

- *Acknowledging all involved*
- *Avoiding If, but, and maybe*
- Admitting your fault
- Acknowledging their feeling/hurt
- Asking for forgiveness



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## Confessing your fault means...

- Accept any consequences
- Alter your behavior ... *“I repent”*

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## **Forgiving like God means ...**

- Choosing not to dwell on it
- Choosing not to spread it
- Choosing not to bring it up and weaponize it
- Choosing not to let it hinder restoration

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# Practicing reconciliation

- Forgive or seek forgiveness
- Allow the repentant person an opportunity to demonstrate repentance and regain trust ...1  
Corinthians 13:1-8a; Galatians 5:22-23

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# Practicing reconciliation

- Forgive in thought ... Luke 6:27-28
- Forgive in word ... 2 Corinthians 2:7
- Forgive in deed ... 1 John 3:18



## How to resolve conflict—listen for R.E.A.L.

- Get the REAL Report (Truth)
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Living as a PeaceMaker – Go and be Reconciled

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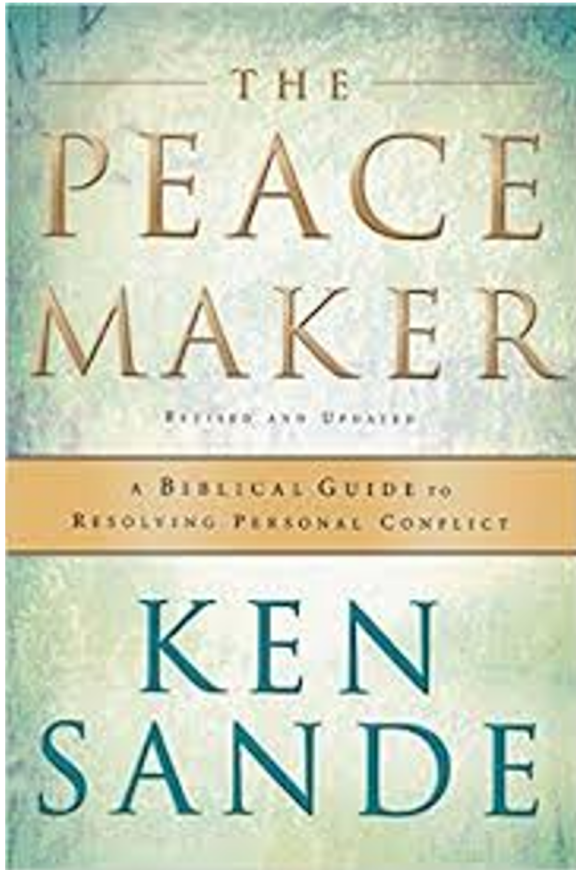
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