

A Community Committed to Reconciliation

Being a Community of Hope in A Despairing World-Part 3 of 8

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace...” Col. 3:15

Four Primary Causes of Conflict

1. **Misunderstanding:** Joshua 22:10-34
2. **Competition:** Genesis 13:1-12
3. **Differences:** Acts 15:39
4. **Sinful attitudes and habits:** James 4:1-2

Three Ways People Respond to Conflict

1. Escape Responses: (Peace-Faking)

* Through _____: Genesis 16:1-6 and Samuel 2:22-25

* Through _____: 1 Samuel 19: 9-10

2. Attack Responses: (Peace-Breaking)

* Through _____: Act 6: 8-15

* Through _____: 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

3. God Honoring Responses: (Peace-making)

* *Peacemaking through _____ an offense*

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.”

Prov. 19:11

* *Peacemaking through reaching for _____.*

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” Matt. 5:23-24

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Col. 3:13

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.” Gal. 6:1

* *Peacemaking through _____.*

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Phil. 2:4

* *Peacemaking through _____.*

“If he will not listen (to you), take one or two others along.” Matt. 18:16

* *Peacemaking through _____.*

“Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! If you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church.” 1 Cor. 6:4

* *Peacemaking through _____.*

“If he refuses to listen (to others), tell it to the church.” Matt. 18:17

Stay On Top Of The Slope

1. Ask God to help you _____ your natural inclination.
2. Ask God to help you develop and live out the _____ response.
3. Ask God to help send _____ who can speak into the conflict.

Six Steps In A Conflict Situation

1. Try to understand how the conflict began and is being prolonged.
2. Plan how to take responsibility for your contribution to the conflict.
3. Decide when and how to confront others regarding their wrongs.
4. Plan what you will say to others and how you will respond to their words and actions.
5. Negotiate just and reasonable agreements.
6. Get help from other Christians when you cannot resolve a conflict in private.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE:

Peace with _____.

“Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; he has hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” Isa. 59:1-2

“For the wages of sin is death...”

Rom. 6:23a

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him (Christ), and through him to reconcile to himself all things...by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Col. 1:19-20

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

1 Pet. 2:24-15.

Peace with _____.

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

Eph. 2:13-14

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Rom. 12:18

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matt. 22:39

Peace within _____.

“You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.”

Isa. 26:3

“The fruit of righteousness will be peace: the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.”

Isa. 32:17

“And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us.”

1 John 3:23