

RESOLVING CONFLICTS

How To Be A Peacemaker - Part 1 of 3

May 26-27, 2007

Jesus: **“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.”** Matthew 5:9 (New Living)

Four biblical steps to restoring relationships:

1. Talk to God _____.

Jesus: **“Don’t pick on people, jump on their failures, criticize their faults— unless, of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging. It’s easy to see a smudge on your neighbor’s face and be oblivious to the ugly sneer on your own. Do you have the nerve to say, ‘Let me wash your face for you,’ when your own face is distorted by contempt?... Wipe that ugly sneer off your own face, and you might be fit to offer a washcloth to your neighbor.”** Matthew 7:1-5 (Message)

James: **“What causes fights and quarrels among you?... You want something but don’t get it.... You do not have, because you do not ask God.”** James 4:1-2 (NIV)

2. Take the _____.

“If you enter your place of worship and are about to make an offering, but you suddenly remember a grudge a friend has against you, abandon your offering, leave immediately, go to this friend and make things right. Then and only then, come back and work things out with God.” Matthew 5:23-24 (Message)

Think of how I would want someone to approach me:

Important considerations:

- The right _____.

“There is a right time and a right way to do everything.” Ecclesiastes 8:6 (GN)

- The right _____.

“Speak the truth in a spirit of love.” Ephesians 4:14

- Don’t _____ the meeting.

“Thoughtless words can wound as deeply as any sword, but wisely spoken words can heal.” Proverbs 12:18

- _____ as much as possible.

Paul: **“Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody.”** Romans 12:18 (TEV)

- Emphasize reconciliation, not _____.

Peter: **“Work hard at living in peace with others.”** 1 Peter 3:11 (New Living)

- Attack the _____, not the person.

“A gentle response defuses anger, but a sharp tongue kindles a temper-fire.” Proverbs 15:1 (Message)

“A wise, mature person is known for his understanding. The more pleasant his words, the more persuasive he is.” Proverbs 16:21 (TEV)

“Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed, so that what you say will do good to those who hear you.” Ephesians 4:29 (TEV)

3. _____ with their feelings.

Paul: **“Look out for one another’s interests, not just for your own.”** Philippians 2:4 (TEV)

David: **“When my thoughts were bitter and my feelings were hurt, I was as stupid as an animal.”** Psalm 73:21-22 (TEV)

“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.” Proverbs 19:11 (NIV)

“We must bear the ‘burden’ of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others ... Let’s please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good...” Romans 15:2 (Living Bible)

“Christ did not indulge his own feelings ... as Scripture says: The insults of those who insult you fall on me.” Romans 15:3 (New Jerusalem)

4. Replace _____ with God’s peace.

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...” Colossians 3:15

“Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.” Hebrews 12:15 (Living Bible)

“Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, with hearts that have been purified from a guilty conscience and with bodies washed with clean water. Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good.” Hebrews 10:22-24 (GN)