

Peacemaking

Matthew 5:9. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Lesson 1 – Conflict Provides Opportunities

1.1 Key Principle: Conflict is an opportunity to...glorify God, restore a relationship, bring someone to repentance.

1.2 What is conflict?: A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.

1.3 The **Four G's** - A God-centered response to conflict:

1) **Glorify** God

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

Ask yourself, "How can I please and honor God in this situation?" You can do so by:

Trusting (Proverbs 3:5-7)...**Obeying** (Matthew 5:16)...**Imitating** (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Acknowledging (Philippians 2:13)...

2) **Get** the log out of your eye

Matthew 7:5 *You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

Ask yourself, "How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?"

3) **Gently** Restore

Galatians 6:1 *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.*

Ask yourself, "How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?"

4) **Go** and be reconciled

Matthew 5:24 *Leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*

Ask yourself, "How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?"

5) These four G's are encompassed in the **Foundational G**: **Gospel** of Christ

1 Timothy 1:15 *It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

1.4 Responses to Conflict:

← The Slippery Slope →

Escape responses (peace faking)

- Denial
- Flight
- Suicide

Peacemaking responses

- Overlook (Prov 19:11)
- Reconciliation (Matt 5:23-24)
- Negotiation (Phil 2:3-4)
- Mediation (Matt 18:16)
- Arbitration (1 Cor 6:1-8)
- Accountability (Matt 18:17-20)

Attack responses (peace breaking)

- Assault
- Litigation
- Murder

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1.5 Self-study: Read the following passages.

Which Slippery Slope responses are evident? Are they wise or foolish?

- a) Abram, Sarai, and Hagar (Gen 16:1-6)
- b) Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Gen 39:1-18)
- c) Joseph and his brothers (Gen 37:17-28, 45:1-7, 50:15-21)
- d) King Saul and David (1 Sam 18:1-11, 19:9-12)
- e) Daniel (Dan 1:1-16)
- f) The Apostles (Acts 6:1-7)
- g) Saul (Paul) and Barnabas (Acts 9:20-28)
- h) Paul (1 Cor 5:1-5, 2 Cor 2:5-11, see Matt 18:15-20)