

Peacemaking

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

Is This Really Worth Fighting Over?

4.1 Key Principle: A gracious, gentle attitude can prevent most conflicts.

4.2 Two kinds of logs to remove:

- A **critical, negative** attitude that leads to unnecessary conflict.
- Actual **sinful** words and or actions.

4.3 God calls us to **overlook** minor offenses.

Proverbs 19:11 ¹¹A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

- Why? To imitate the Lord.
 - **Psalm 103:8-10** ⁸The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. ⁹He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. ¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.
- When?
 - If the offense is not dishonoring to God.
 - If your relationship has not been permanently damaged.
 - If others are not being hurt.

4.4 Check your **attitude** (and change it)

Philippians 4:4-9 ⁹Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

- Rejoice in the Lord **always**.
- Let your **gentle spirit** be known to all men.
- Be anxious for **nothing**.
- In everything, **pray** with **thanksgiving**.
- **Practice** these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

4.5 Count the **cost**.

Matthew 5:25-26 ²⁵Make friends quickly with your opponent at law while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.

4.6 Personal reflection:

- When experiencing a conflict, do you rejoice in the Lord always? Do you have a gentle spirit? Are you anxious? Do you pray with thanksgiving?
- What is the greatest "conflict price tag" you've ever paid? Was it worth it?