

Living at Peace

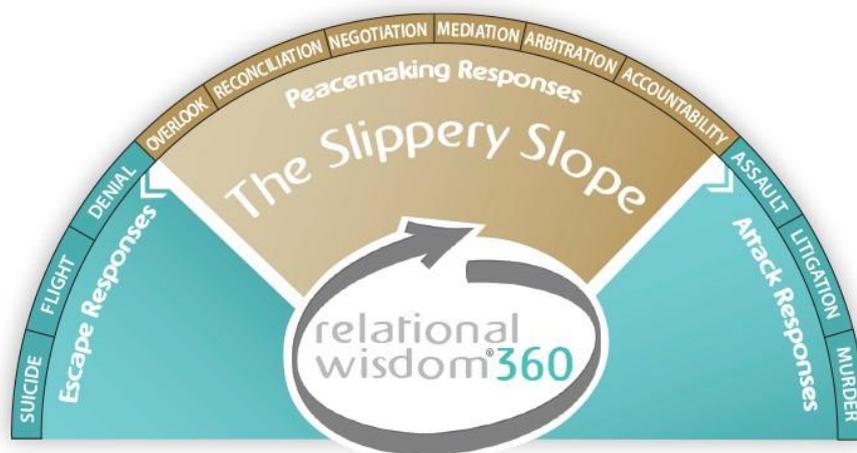
God loves peace. From Genesis to Revelation, he communicates a deep desire to bless his people with peace and to use them to bring peace to others. In this session we will describe the blessings of living in peace. We will then develop a practical systematic theology for pursuing peace and resolving the conflicts of real life. This relational peacemaking system includes a tool for identifying twelve typical responses to conflict, and practical, user-friendly peacemaking principles of confession, forgiveness, and negotiation that have been used to reverse divorces, settle lawsuits, resolve leadership meltdowns, and heal church divisions

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“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9).

Key Point: *Scripture provides thorough, practical guidance for resolving every kind of conflict.*

1. Typical responses to conflict



2. Scripture provides a practical theology for peacemaking (the 4Gs)

- Glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Get the log out of your eye (Matt. 7:3)
- Gently restore (Gal. 6:1)
- Go and be reconciled (Matt. 5:24)

Through the gospel, the foundational G, God provides both the model and motivation for peacemaking

3. Glorify God by using conflict as an opportunity to reflect his reconciling love
So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31; Ex. 34:5-8).

4. Get the log out of your eye.
“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” (Matt. 7:3; cf. Prov. 28:13).
 - a. Conflict starts in the heart (James 4:1-2; Luke 10:38-42). The ***progression of an idol***:
 - I desire
 - I demand
 - I judge
 - I punish

 - b. The ***Seven A's of Confession***
 - Address everyone involved
 - Avoid if, but, and maybe
 - Admit specifically (behavior and desire)
 - Acknowledge the hurt
 - Accept the consequences
 - Alter your behavior
 - Ask for forgiveness (and Allow time)

5. Gently restore.
Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness (Gal. 6:1).
 - Overlook minor offenses (Prov. 19:11; 1 Pet. 4:8)
 - Breathe grace and hope through the gospel (John 4:7-26; 1 Cor. 1:2-9; Col. 3:12)
 - Keep it as private as possible, but involve others if needed (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).

6. Go and be reconciled.

The ***Four Promises of Forgiveness***

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Eph. 4:32; cf. Matt. 18:21-35; 1 Cor. 13:5).

- I will not dwell on this incident.
- I will not bring this incident up and use it against you.
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

The ***PAUSE Principle of Negotiation***

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than your-selves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:3-4).

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

Discussion: "I Want Out" and "Why Are You Doing This?" Video clips

- What "Slippery Slope" responses did Caleb and Erin use initially?
- How did the gospel reshape Caleb's attitude and actions?
- How did Caleb get the log out of his own eye? Which of the "Seven A's of Confession" did he apply?
- What emotions did Erin exhibit in the first scene? In the second?
- What more can Caleb do to win Erin's trust and love again?

Suggested Reading and Training:

- *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Ken Sande (Baker Books, 3rd ed. 2004)
- *Resolving Everyday Conflict*, Ken Sande and Kevin Johnson (Baker Books, 2011)
- Subscribe to ***RW Blog*** (www.rw360.org/blog);
- *Discovering Relational Wisdom 2.0* online at www.rw360.org/online-training