

Sticks and Stones

#2: Conflict and Resolution

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

How To Use Our Words To Bring Peace

1. Identify the _____

James 4:1-3 *What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don't get it.*

Luke 12:13 *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*

2. Overlook it _____

Proverbs 19:11 *A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*

3. _____

a) _____

Proverbs 29:11 *Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back.*

b) Fix the goal _____

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

c) Prepare _____

** Start with words of love and concern

** Respectfully ask questions and assume the best

** Ask for feedback

1 Peter 3:15 *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...*

d) Choose the right _____

Matt. 5:23-24 *[If] your brother has something against you ... go and be reconciled.*

e) _____

Proverbs 18:13 *Spouting off before listening to the facts is both shameful and foolish.*

Conflicts arise from unmet desires in our hearts. When we feel we cannot be satisfied unless we have something we want or think we need, the desire turns into a demand. If someone fails to meet that desire, we condemn him in our heart and quarrel and fight to get our way. In short, conflict arises when desires grow into demands and we judge and punish those who get in our way. **Peacemakers**

Have my desires become more important than God?

- What am I preoccupied with? What is the first thing on my mind in the morning and the last thing on my mind at night?
- How would I complete this statement: "If only _____, then I would be happy, fulfilled, and secure"?
- What do I want to preserve or avoid?
- Where do I put my trust?
- What do I fear?
- When a certain desire is not met, do I feel frustration, anxiety, resentment, bitterness, anger, or depression?
- Is there something I desire so much that I am willing to disappoint or hurt others in order to have it?

Should I overlook this?

Is the offense seriously dishonoring God?

Has it permanently damaged a relationship?

Is it seriously hurting other people? and

Is it seriously hurting the offender himself?

4 commitments of a peacemaker

Glorify God — Instead of focusing on our own desires or on what others may do, we will rejoice in the Lord and bring him praise by depending on his forgiveness, wisdom, power, and love, as we seek to faithfully obey his commands and maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude.

Get the Log out of Your Eye — Instead of blaming others for a conflict or resisting correction, we will trust in God's mercy and take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts—confessing our sins to those we have wronged, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused.

Gently Restore — Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will overlook minor offenses or we will talk personally and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook, seeking to restore them rather than condemn them. When a conflict with a Christian cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner.

Go and be reconciled — Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation—forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.