

#2 New Way of Thinking – Peacemaker Ministries Resolving Conflict Series

I. Understanding Our Responses to Conflict

1. Avoid “Clam up” - Withdraw, run, escape, evade
2. Attack “Cut up” - I will assault you in some manner

II. “Escape” Responses – Running and Being Comfortable

1. Denial – Pretend, be quiet and hope it goes away
2. Flee – Just go elsewhere

III. Fight – I Will “Win” - Victory is Crucial

1. Blame – It is your fault - you are wrong, selfish, foolish...”
2. Assault – Usually verbal and can be physical

IV. Another Approach – Seek Biblical Restoration

1. Reconciliation – God and our testimony are the priorities.
2. The spiritual welfare of others is important.

V. Dealing with Conflicts – A Great First Step

1. Overlooking an offense is often the most “Christ-like decision”

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

2. Am I allowed to overlook the offense?

Is it causing serious harm to the Relationship?
...to Others?
...to the Individual?
...to “God's Name”?

Proverbs 24:6 - *For by wise guidance you will wage war, And in abundance of counselors there is victory.*

1 Peter 1:16 - *Because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

Acts 5:13 - *No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.*

Mike Yaconelli: *"I would like to suggest that the Church become a place of terror again; a place where God continually has to tell us, "Fear not"; a place where our relationship with God is not a simple belief or a doctrine or theology, it is God's burning presence in our lives.*

I am suggesting that the tame God of relevance be replaced by the God whose very presence shatters our egos into dust, burns our sin into ashes, and strips us naked to reveal the real person within. The Church needs to become a gloriously dangerous place where nothing is safe in God's presence except us.

VI. The Four G's – Learn and Write them Somewhere

1. "Glorify God" (Pleasing God in this conflict)

1 Corinthians 10:3 - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

2. "Get the log out of my own eye" (My contribution)

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.*

3. "Gently Restore" (Assist others to take responsibility)

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.....*

4. Go to be "Reconciled" (Being right or comfortable)

Oswald Chambers - *Jesus does not mention the other person— He says for you to go. It is not a matter of your rights. The true mark of the saint is that he can waive his own rights and obey the Lord Jesus.*

Matthew 5:9-26 Page #960

Faith Sheet

Transformation Verse - *...do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men.*

Colossians 3:23 (NASB)

Times with the Lord this week - If you have extra time, look up the cross references with the Transformation Scripture.

#1- Reviewing this Past Sunday

New Way of Thinking – Peacemaker Ministries

1. Read Matthew 5:21-26. What do you see here concerning conflict resolution?
2. What were you taught in the churches you have attended in the past concerning how to address conflict as you watched the leaders and the people?
3. What do you lack in getting equipped to Biblically handle conflict with others?

2- Preparing for Next Sunday

Go to Higher Ground (Glorify God) – Peacemaker Ministries

1. Read Psalm 72:19 and Isaiah 42:8. What is said about God?
2. What does it mean that He is glorious above all else?
3. How would giving glory to someone other than God influence how we address conflict?
Read Prov. 29:25 and use it as a prayer.

#2 New Way of Thinking – Peacemaker Ministries Resolving Conflict Series

I. Review last week

II. Video – What did you see, hear and feel?

III. Understanding our responses to conflict

1. “Flee” – get away, withdraw, run, escape, avoid
2. “Attack” - I will get you, get hurt then blow up

IV. Escape Responses – All about running

1. Denial – I am fine, pretend, be quiet and hope it goes away
2. Flight – very common in churches and marriages - just go elsewhere
3. Like a ticking bomb – catches up with us

V. Fight – I Will Win (common in corporate world, some homes/churches)

1. Blame – It is your fault - you are so wrong... so selfish, so foolish...”

Try our case with others by telling others how bad someone is

2. Assault – usually verbal and can be physical

Intimidation, manipulation, yelling, etc., sometimes litigation

A. Sometimes we do both escape and attack

B. If we have seen these modeled or have been “trained” at work then we often take these styles into our homes and toward those we love

VI. Another Approach – Seek Reconciliation

1. Not Restitution – sometimes important but not enough in God’s Kingdom
2. Not Resolution – sometimes important but not enough

3. "Reconciliation" focuses on God and our relationships being mended

VII. The Four G's

1. "**Glorify God**" – How do I please God in this conflict?

1 Corinthians 10:3 - *Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

2. **Get the log out of your own 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.*

A. Start with your contribution to the 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.....*

A. How can I be used to assist others to take responsibility for their contribution?

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.*

VIII. Great First Step in Dealing with Conflicts

1. Can I overlook this?

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

2. We often take offense so easily - often thin skinned

3. Often however, we are thick skinned when we offend others

4. Let's flip these two

5. Be careful not to fall into an "escape" mode and refuse to address conflict

6. Overlooking an offence is "preemptive forgiveness."
 - A. The offense should not create a wall between us
 - B. We can overlook an offense when it is - Not causing serious harm to God's name, the individuals involved or others
 - C. Overlook if it is not a serious or destructive pattern
7. Video – What did you see, hear or feel?
8. God is the One who makes the difference in conflicts

IX. Review

1. What did you learn to apply?
2. Any questions about what you heard?
3. How do you tend to deal with conflict and how do you wish to grow?
4. Review the Four G's above and then review the Scripture below and discuss:

Proverbs 16:32 - He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.