

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**PEACEMAKING**  
**CONFLICT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES**

**1. REVIEW - PEACEMAKING**

**A. PEACEMAKERS ARE PEOPLE WHO BREATHE GRACE.**

1. **THEY DRAW CONTINUALLY ON THE GOODNESS AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST, AND THEN THEY BRING HIS LOVE, MERCY, FORGIVENESS, STRENGTH, AND WISDOM TO THE CONFLICTS OF DAILY LIFE.**

**B. RELATIONAL PEACEMAKING, IN ESSENCE, IS THE DESIRE AND ABILITY TO OBEY JESUS' TIMELESS COMMAND:**

1. **Matthew 22:37-39 (NASB) "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.... 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'"**

**C. IT IS DIFFICULT TO BE A PEACEMAKER IF WE DO NOT EXPERIENCE SOME DEGREE OF PEACE IN OUR OWN LIVES.**

1. **"DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO" IS RARELY A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH!**

**D. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST:**

**E. PEACE WITH GOD.**

**F. PEACE WITH OTHERS.**

**G. PEACE WITH SELF.**

1. **NOTE: WE WILL NOT KNOW GENUINE INTERNAL PEACE UNLESS WE ALSO PURSUE PEACE WITH GOD AND PEACE WITH OTHERS.**

2. **NOTE #2: IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO BE A PEACEMAKER IF WE DO NOT HAVE PEACE... WITH GOD AND WITH SELF.**

**H. PEACE WITH GOD**

1. **NOTE: PEACE WITH GOD DOES NOT COME AUTOMATICALLY.**

- a. **BECAUSE... WE HAVE ALL SINNED... THAT'S THE BAD NEWS.**

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- b. **Romans 3:23 (NASB)** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
  - c. **Romans 6:23a (NASB)** For the wages of sin is **death**,
2. **BUT... THE GOOD NEWS IS...**
- a. **Romans 5:8 (NASB)** **But God** demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
  - b. **Romans 5:1 (NASB)** Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**,
3. **AS WE:**
- a. **TRUST IN JESUS**,
  - b. **ACCEPT HIS GIFT OF SALVATION**,
  - c. **AND DRAW NEARER TO HIM THROUGH...**
    - 1) **THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT**,
    - 2) **THE STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS WORD**,
    - 3) **THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER**,
    - 4) **AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS CHURCH...**
  - d. **THEN... HIS PEACE CAN FILL EVERY PART OF OUR LIFE!**
- I. **PEACE WITH OTHERS**
- 1. **IN ADDITION TO GIVING US PEACE WITH GOD**, JESUS' SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS OPENED THE WAY FOR US TO ENJOY **PEACE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.**
  - 2. **GOD'S WORD CALLS US TO BE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE.**
    - a. **Romans 12:18 (NASB)** If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men.**
  - 3. **THIS KIND OF PEACE IS THE DIRECT RESULT OF OBEYING THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT.**

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- a. Matthew 22:39b (NASB) 'YOU **SHALL LOVE** YOUR **NEIGHBOR** AS YOURSELF.'
4. THIS CLASS IS DEVOTED TO TEACHING **PARENTS**, AND OUR **CHILDREN**, HOW TO PURSUE **PEACE WITH OTHERS** WHEN **CONFLICT** HAS **DISRUPTED OUR RELATIONSHIPS**.
- J. **PEACE WITH OURSELVES**
  1. GENUINE **INTERNAL PEACE** CANNOT BE OBTAINED BY OUR **OWN EFFORTS**... IT IS A **GIFT** THAT GOD GIVES TO **THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIS SON** AND **OBEY HIS COMMANDS**.
    - a. IN OTHER WORDS, **INTERNAL PEACE** IS A **BY-PRODUCT** OF **RIGHTEOUSNESS** (GOD'S MORAL NATURE).
    - b. Isaiah 26:3 (NASB) "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect **peace**, Because he trusts in You.
    - c. Isaiah 32:17 (NASB) And the **work of righteousness will be peace**, Psalms 119:165a (NASB) Those who love Your law have great **peace**,
    - d. Isaiah 48:18 "If only you had paid attention to **My commandments!** Then your **peace** would have been like a river, And your **righteousness** like the waves of the sea.
  2. THOSE PASSAGES SHOW **WHY** IT IS **IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPERIENCE INTERNAL PEACE** IF WE **FAIL TO PURSUE PEACE WITH GOD** AND **PEACE WITH OTHERS!**
  3. **BY GOD'S DESIGN, THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE ARE INSEPARABLY JOINED.**
    - a. **PEACE WITH GOD, PEACE WITH OTHERS, AND PEACE WITH OURSELVES... COME IN THE SAME PACKAGE.**
- K. **DISCUSS: ENEMIES OF PEACE:**
  1. FEAR
  2. ANGER
  3. ANXIETY
  4. DISSAPPOINTMENT/UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS
  5. PRIDE
  6. ENVY
  7. CONFLICT

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- a. **CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE...** IT'S **HOW WE DEAL WITH CONFLICT** THAT **AFFECTS OUR PEACE**.
2. **CONFLICT DISRUPTS PEACE...** WITH **GOD**, WITH **OTHERS**, AND WITH **SELF**.
  - A. THIS CLASS IS DESIGNED TO HELP **PARENTS**, AND OUR **CHILDREN**, BECOME **PEACEMAKERS** BY PROVIDING SIMPLE YET COMPREHENSIVE **APPROACHES** TO **RESOLVING CONFLICT**.
    1. BECAUSE THE **CONTENT** IS **BASED ON GOD'S WORD**, IT CAN BE **EFFECTIVE** IN **EVERY** TYPE OF **CONFLICT**.
    - B. OUR APPROACH TO **RESOLVING CONFLICT** WILL BE SUMMARIZED IN **FOUR** **BASIC PRINCIPLES** REFERED TO AS THE "**FOUR G's**".
      1. **G**LORIFYING GOD
      2. **G**ETTING THE LOG OUT OF OUR OWN EYE
      3. **G**ENTLY RESTORING
      4. **G**O... AND BE RECONCILLED
    - C. **G**LORIFYING GOD
      1. **BIBLICAL PEACEMAKING** IS MOTIVATED BY A **DESIRE TO BRING GLORY TO GOD...** **NOT TO OURSELVES**.
      2. **IF** WE:
        - a. DRAW ON HIS **GRACE**
        - b. FOLLOW HIS **EXAMPLE**
        - c. AND PUT HIS **TEACHINGS** INTO PRACTICE
      3. **THEN** WE CAN **FIND FREEDOM** FROM OUR **IMPULSIVE, SELF-CENTERED DECISIONS** THAT ONLY **MAKE CONFLICT WORSE**.

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

**D. GETTING THE LOG OUT OF OUR OWN EYE**

**1. ATTACKING OTHERS ONLY INVITES COUNTER-ATTACKS.**

- a. **THAT'S WHY JESUS TEACHES US TO FACE UP TO OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CONFLICT BEFORE WE FOCUS ON WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE.**

**2. WHEN WE OVERLOOK THE OFFENCES OF OTHERS AND HONESTLY ADMIT OUR OWN FAULTS, THEY WILL OFTEN RESPOND IN KIND.**

- a. **Matthew 7:3-5 (NASB)** "Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? "Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own 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.

**E. GENTLY RESTORING**

**1. WHEN OTHERS FAIL TO SEE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A CONFLICT, SOMETIMES WE NEED TO GRACIOUSLY, AND GENTLY, SHOW THEM THEIR FAULT.**

- a. **NOT... GRUMBLE, COMPLAIN, AND TELL OTHERS (= GOSSIP)!**
- b. **DISCUSS: THE KEY WORDS ARE GRACIOUSLY AND GENTLY!**
- c. **Galatians 6:1 (NASB)** 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.

**F. GO... AND BE RECONCILED.**

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1. **PEACEMAKING INVOLVES A COMMITMENT TO RESTORING DAMAGED RELATIONSHIPS.**
  - a. THAT MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE TIMES WHEN WE MUST **GO** TO THOSE WE HAVE **CONFLICTS** WITH IN ORDER TO **SEEK RESTITUTION.**
    - 1) **DISCUSS**
  - b. **Matthew 5:23-24 (NASB)** "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar **and go**; **first be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and present your offering.
2. **WE MUST LEARN TO FORGIVE OTHERS AND TO SEEK SOLUTIONS THAT SATISFY OTHERS' INTERESTS, AS WELL AS OUR OWN, SO THAT THE DOOR TO GENUINE PEACE CAN BE OPENED.**
  - a. **Matthew 6:14-15 (NASB)** "For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do **not forgive others**, then your Father will **not** forgive your transgressions.
    - 1) ... WHICH MEANS THAT **OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS HINDERED... WE CANNOT BE IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IF WE REFUSE TO FORGIVE OTHERS.**
    - 2) johnshopkinsmedicine.org SAYS THAT, "PEOPLE WHO **FORGIVE** TEND TO BE **MORE SATISFIED** WITH THEIR LIVES AND HAVE **LESS DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, STRESS, ANGER, AND HOSTILITY.** PEOPLE WHO ARE **NOT FORGIVING** ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE **SEVERE DEPRESSION AS WELL AS HEART DISEASE, AND DIABETES."**
3. **WHEN WE TRULY REALIZE AND EXPERIENCE THE LIBERATING FORGIVENESS OF GOD IN OUR OWN LIVES, WE ARE EMPOWERED TO GO AND FORGIVE OTHERS IN THE SAME WAY.**
3. **NEXT WEEK: CONFLICTS AND PEACEMAKING... FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN**