

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

1. REVIEW:

A. PEACEMAKERS ARE PEOPLE WHO BREATHE GRACE.

1. BECAUSE 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. THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST:

1. PEACE WITH GOD.

a. SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

b. TIME SPENT WITH GOD IN:

1) STUDY OF HIS WORD

2) PRAYER

c. DISCUSS:

2. PEACE WITH OTHERS.

a. THE MAIN FOCUS OF OUR STUDY.

3. PEACE WITH SELF.

a. BY GOD'S DESIGN, THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE ARE INSEPARABLY JOINED.

b. WE WILL NOT KNOW GENUINE INTERNAL PEACE UNLESS WE ALSO PURSUE PEACE WITH GOD AND PEACE WITH OTHERS.

C. THREE BASIC RESPONSES TO CONFLICT: (SEE THE CHART ON PAGE 7)

1. ESCAPE RESPONSES – PEACE FAKING

a. PEOPLE USE THESE RESPONSES WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN AVOIDING CONFLICT THAN IN RESOLVING CONFLICT.

1) DISCUSS: AVOIDING A CONFLICT vs RESOLVING A CONFLICT

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

- b. **ESCAPE** RESPONSES CAN **NEVER RESOLVE CONFLICTS**.
- 2. **ATTACK RESPONSES – PEACE BREAKING**
 - a. PEOPLE USE THESE RESPONSES WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN **WINNING A CONFLICT** THAN IN **PRESERVING A RELATIONSHIP**.
 - 1) **DISCUSS: WINNING** A CONFLICT vs **PRESERVING** A RELATIONSHIP
 - b. THIS ATTITUDE IS SEEN IN PEOPLE WHO VIEW **CONFLICT** AS A **CONTEST** OR AN **OPPORTUNITY TO ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS**, TO **CONTROL** OTHERS, OR TO **TAKE ADVANTAGE** OF THE **CONFLICT**.
 - c. **ATTACK** RESPONSES ARE DIRECTED AT **BRINGING AS MUCH PRESSURE TO BEAR ON OPPONENTS AS IS NECESSARY TO ELIMINATE THEIR OPPOSITION**.
- 3. **PEACEMAKING RESPONSES – PEACE MAKING**
 - a. THESE RESPONSES ARE **COMMANDED BY GOD, EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND**
 - b. THEY ARE **DIRECTED** TOWARD FINDING **JUST** AND **MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICT**.
- 2. **PEACEMAKING RESPONSES: PERSONAL PEACEMAKING...**
 - A. **“PERSONAL”** BECAUSE THEY CAN BE **CARRIED OUT PERSONALLY AND PRIVATELY**.
 - 1. **THE VAST MAJORITY OF CONFLICTS** SHOULD BE **RESOLVED** IN **ONE OF THESE WAYS**:
 - B. **OVERLOOKING AN OFFENSE**
 - 1. **Proverbs 19:11 (NASB)** A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to **overlook a transgression**.
 - 2. **Proverbs 17:14 (NLT)** Starting a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, **so stop before a dispute breaks out**.

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

3. **Colossians 3:13 (NLT)** Make allowance for each other's faults, and **forgive** anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.
4. **OVERLOOKING AN OFFENSE IS A FORM OF FORGIVENESS THAT INVOLVES A DELIBERATE DECISION NOT TO:**
 - a. **TALK** ABOUT IT,
 - b. **GOSSIP** ABOUT IT,
 - c. **DWELL** ON IT,
 - d. OR, LET IT **GROW** INTO **PENT-UP BITTERNESS** OR **ANGER**.

C. RECONCILIATION

1. **Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)** "and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ... **Go** and **be reconciled** to that person."
2. **Galatians 6:1a (NASB)** Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness
3. **IF A CONFLICT (OFFENSE) IS TOO SERIOUS TO OVERLOOK, OR HAS DAMAGED THE RELATIONSHIP, WE NEED TO RESOLVE IT THROUGH:**
 - a. **CONFESSION**
 - b. **LOVING CORRECTION**
 - c. **FORGIVENESS**

D. NEGOTIATION

1. **EVEN WHEN WE SUCCESSFULLY RESOLVE RELATIONAL CONFLICT ISSUES, WE MAY STILL NEED TO WORK THROUGH MATERIAL ISSUES RELATED TO:**
 - a. **MONEY**
 - b. **PROPERTY**
 - c. **OTHER RIGHTS**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

1) THIS SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH A **COOPERATIVE BARGAINING PROCESS** IN WHICH YOU AND THE OTHER PERSON SEEK TO REACH A SETTLEMENT THAT SATISFIES THE **LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF EACH SIDE.**

3. **PEACEMAKING RESPONSES: ASSISTED PEACEMAKING**

A. **ASSISTED PEACEMAKING RESPONSES** REQUIRE THE INVOLVEMENT OF **OTHER PEOPLE** FROM OUR **CHURCH** OR **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.**

B. **MEDIATION**

1. IF TWO (OR MORE) PEOPLE **CANNOT REACH AN AGREEMENT IN PRIVATE...**

a. THEY SHOULD ASK ONE OR MORE **OBJECTIVE PEOPLE** TO MEET WITH THEM TO HELP THEM **COMMUNICATE MORE EFFECTIVELY** AND **EXPLORE JUST** AND **MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICT.**

b. **Matthew 18:15-16a (NASB)** "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen *to you*, **take one or two more with you,**

c. **MEDIATORS MAY ASK QUESTIONS** AND **GIVE ADVICE**, BUT THEY HAVE **NO AUTHORITY TO FORCE THE PARTIES TO ACCEPT A PARTICULAR SOLUTION.**

C. **ARBITRATION**

1. WHEN OPPONENTS **CANNOT COME TO A VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT** THEY MAY **APPOINT ONE OR MORE ARBITRATORS** TO LISTEN TO **BOTH SIDES** AND RENDER A **BINDING DECISION** TO SETTLE THE **CONFLICT.**

D. **ACCOUNTABILITY**

1. IF A PERSON WHO PROFFESSES TO BE A **CHRISTIAN REFUSES TO BE RECONCILED**, JESUS **COMMANDS CHURCH LEADERS TO INTERVENE TO**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE TO SCRIPTURE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE REPENTANCE, JUSTICE, AND FORGIVENESS.

- a. **Matthew 18:15-17 (NASB)** "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen *to you*, **take one or two more with you**, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** "If he **refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church**; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- b. **DIRECT CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICT BETWEEN CHRISTIANS IS OFTEN VIEWED NEGATIVELY AMONG CHRISTIANS TODAY... ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE CHURCH LEADERS.**
 - 1) **HOWEVER, WHEN RESTORATION IS DONE IN LOVE IT CAN BE THE KEY TO SAVING RELATIONSHIPS AND PRESERVING UNITY IN THE CHURCH.**

4. UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT

A. **A BROAD DEFINITION OF CONFLICT IS... A DIFFERENCE IN OPINION OR PURPOSE THAT FRUSTRATES SOMEONE'S GOALS OR DESIRES.**

B. **4 PRIMARY CAUSES OF CONFLICT**

1. **MISUNDERSTANDINGS RESULTING FROM POOR COMMUNICATION**
2. **DIFFERENCES IN...**
 - a. **VALUES**
 - b. **GOALS**
 - c. **GIFTS**
 - d. **CALLINGS**
 - e. **PRIORITIES**
 - f. **EXPECTATIONS**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

- g. INTERESTS
 - h. OPINIONS
 - i. DISCUSS:
3. COMPETITION OVER LIMITED RESOURCES IN FAMILIES, CHURCHES,
AND BUSINESSES:
- a. MONEY
 - b. TIME
4. SINFUL ATTITUDES AND HABITS THAT LEAD TO SINFUL WORDS AND
ACTIONS.
- a. PRIDE
5. CONFLICT CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES
- A. PEACEMAKERS HAVE LEARNED TO VIEW CONFLICT NOT AS AN ACCIDENT,
BUT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN US:
- 1. TO GLORIFY HIM...
 - 2. TO SERVE OTHERS...
 - 3. TO GROW TO BE MORE LIKE CHRIST
 - 4. TO SHOW THAT WE TAKE THE GOSPEL SERIOUSLY
- B. THE OPPORTUNITY TO GLORIFY GOD
- 1. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NASB) Whether, then, you eat or drink or **whatever**
you do, do all to the glory of God.
 - 2. GOD IS GLORIFIED WHEN HIS PEOPLE DEPEND ON HIM AND TRUST
HIM AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS... EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS TO PUT US AT
A DISADVANTAGE.
 - 3. QUESTIONS FOR WHEN WE ARE IN A CONFLICT:

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

- a. **HOW CAN I HONOR GOD IN THIS SITUATION... AM I HONORING GOD IN THIS SITUATION??**
- b. **AM I SHOWING THAT JESUS HAS SAVED ME AND IS CHANGING ME IN THIS SITUATION?**

C. THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OTHER PEOPLE

1. **Ephesians 4:29 (NASB)** Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, **so that it will give grace to those who hear.**
2. **BY HELPING TO CARRY THEIR BURDENS.**
 - a. **Galatians 6:2 (NASB)** **Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.**
3. **HELP OTHERS CHANGE THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE CONFRONTATION IN LOVE.**
 - a. **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.
 - b. **THE KEY WORD IS LOVE**
 - c. **DISCUSS:**
4. **TEACH AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS BY EXAMPLE... LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM.**
 - a. **Ephesians 5:2 (NASB)** and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

D. THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW TO BE LIKE CHRIST

1. **Romans 8:28-29a (NASB)** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed to the image of His Son,**

PARENTING BY THE BOOK
PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT

2. THE **PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION**

E. THE **OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW OTHERS THAT WE TAKE THE GOSPEL SERIOUSLY**

1. **Ephesians 4:1-3 (NASB)** Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
2. **DISCUSS:**

