

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN HOW TO BECOME PEACEMAKERS

1. REVIEW

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

1. **THEY CHOOSE TO DRAW ON THE GOODNESS AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST, AND THEN BRING HIS LOVE, HIS MERCY, HIS FORGIVENESS, HIS STRENGTH, AND HIS WISDOM TO THE CONFLICTS IN THEIR LIVES.**

B. **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT PEACEMAKERS**

1. **Isaiah 9:6 (NASB)** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace.**

2. **Matthew 5:9 (NASB)** "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called **sons of God.**

3. **James 3:18 (NASB)** And the **seed** whose fruit is **righteousness** is **sown** in **peace** by those who make peace.

a. **WHAT WE ARE IS WHAT WE LIVE, AND WHAT WE LIVE IS WHAT WE SOW. WHAT WE SOW DETERMINES WHAT WE REAP.**

b. **THE CHRISTIAN WHO OBEYS GOD'S WISDOM SOWS RIGHTEOUSNESS... NOT SIN... WE SOW PEACE... NOT CONFLICT.**

4. **Psalms 34:14 (NASB)** Depart from evil, and do good; **seek peace**, and pursue it.

5. **Romans 12:18 (NASB)** If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men.**

6. **John 14:27 (NASB)** "**Peace** I leave with you; **My peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

7. **Galatians 5:22-23a (NASB)** But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, **peace**, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

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8. **1 Corinthians 14:33 (NASB)** for God is **not a God of confusion** but of **peace**, as in all the churches of the saints.

9.

C. **PEACE IS A CHOICE... THAT WE MAKE... OR, DO NOT MAKE.**

1. **OUR SALVATION IS A GIFT FROM GOD.**

a. **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)** For by **grace** you have been saved **through faith**; and that **not of yourselves**, it is **the gift of God**; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

2. **OUR SPOUSES ARE A GIFT FROM GOD.**

a. **Matthew 19:4-6 (NASB)** And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning **MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE**, and said, '**FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH**'? "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore **God has joined together**, let no man separate."

3. **OUR CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD.**

a. **Psalms 127:3 (NASB)** Behold, **children are a gift of the LORD**, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4. **BUT... PEACE IS A CHOICE!!**

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

1. **PEACE WITH GOD.**

a. **T I M E** SPENT WITH GOD IN: (ALL RELATIONSHIPS REQUIRE **T I M E**)

1) **STUDY OF HIS WORD**

2) **PRAYER**

3) **Philippians 4:6-9 (NASB)** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all

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comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the **God of peace** will be with you.

2. **PEACE WITH OTHERS.**

a. **PEACE WITH GOD AND PEACE WITH OTHERS... MUST BE PERSUED.**

3. **PEACE WITH SELF.**

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

b. **PWG + PWO = PWS**



E. **THREE BASIC RESPONSES TO CONFLICT** FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN:

1. **ESCAPE RESPONSES = PEACE FAKING**

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- a. **WALKING AWAY FROM THE CONFLICT... AND THE RELATIONSHIP.**
 - b. PEOPLE USE THESE RESPONSES WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN **AVOIDING CONFLICT** THAN IN **RESOLVING CONFLICT.**
 - c. **ESCAPE RESPONSES NEVER RESOLVE CONFLICTS.**
- 2. ATTACK RESPONSES = PEACE BREAKING**
- a. PEOPLE USE **ATTACK** RESPONSES WHEN THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN **WINNING A CONFLICT** THAN IN **PRESERVING A RELATIONSHIP.**
 - b. **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. **PEACEMAKING** RESPONSES ARE **DIRECTED TOWARD FINDING JUST AND MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICT.**
- 2. TEACHING OUR CHILDREN HOW TO BECOME PEACEMAKERS IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS**
- A. **DISCUSS: WHAT ARE SOME CONFLICT SITUATIONS CHILDREN FACE?**
 - B. **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN NOT TO ESCAPE CONFLICT SITUATIONS BY:**
 1. **DENIAL = PRETENDING CONFLICT DOESN'T EXIST BY:**
 - a. **THE BLAME GAME = PLACING ALL RESPONSIBILITY ON OTHERS**
 - b. **RUNNING AWAY... FROM THE CONFLICT... AND THE RELATIONSHIP**
 - C. **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN NOT TO ATTACK IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS BY:**
 1. **PUT DOWNS = SAYING HURTFUL OR UNKIND THINGS TO SOMEONE**
 2. **GOSSIP = TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE TO DAMAGE THEIR REPUTATION**

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3. **USING PHYSICAL FORCE TO GET WHAT THEY WANT = BITING, ARGUING, SHOVING, OR FIGHTING.**

D. **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN PEACEMAKING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT BY:**

1.

3. **THE BLAME GAME: SOMETIMES CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) MAKE CHOICES THAT LEAD TO CONFLICT. AND... THE PROBLEM GETS WORSE WHEN THEY REFUSE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CHOICES BY PLAYING THE BLAME GAME.**

A. **THESE ARE 5 WAYS CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) PLAY THE BLAME GAME.**

1. **BLAME SOMEONE ELSE FOR THEIR CHOICE.**

a. "IT'S NOT MY FAULT... YOU MADE ME ANGRY... SHE/HE PUSHED ME FIRST".

2. **COVER UP FOR WHAT THEY DID WRONG IN HOPES THAT NO ONE WILL FIND OUT.**

a. "IF I CAN JUST GET THIS MESS CLEANED UP, _____? _____ WILL THINK SOMEONE ELSE DID IT... IF I TELL, I'LL GET IN TRIUBLE".

3. **MAKE EXCUSES FOR DOING SOMETHING WRONG, OR FOR NOT DOING SOMETHING RIGHT.**

a. "I FORGOT... I WAS TOO BUSY... NO ONE REMINDED ME".

4. **PRETEND THAT SOMETHING THEY DID WAS NOT THEIR FAULT.**

a. "DID YOU KNOW THAT _____? _____ IS BROKEN?... I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HIM/HER".

5. **LIE ABOUT WHAT THEY DID.**

a. "I DIDN'T TAKE IT (BUT THEY DID)... I DIDN'T DO IT (BUT THEY DID)".

B. **DISCUSS PLAYING THE BLAME GAME:**

1. **PLAYING THE BLAME GAME IS A CHOICE.**

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a. YOUR BAD CHOICE + THE BLAME GAME = DOUBLE TROUBLE:

- 1) CONSEQUENCES FOR THE BAD CHOICE.
- 2) CONSEQUENCES FOR BLAMING SOMEONE ELSE.

C. THE **BLAME GAME** CAN CAUSE OUR CHILDREN (AND ADULTS) TO DETERMINE THAT THEY ARE **VICTIMS** = SOMEONE WHO IS CHEATED, FOOLED, OR INJURED BY SOMEONE ELSE.

1. THEY GET IN THE **HABIT** OF **BLAMING** THEIR FAMILY, FRIENDS, TEACHERS, OR NEIGHBORS FOR THEIR PROBLEMS... BUT, NEVER THEMSELVES.
2. THEY OFTEN COME TO FEEL THAT THEY ARE AT THE MERCY OF OTHERS.
3. THEY RARELY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONFLICTS OR PROBLEMS.
4. THEIR **CHOICES** ARE OFTEN BASED ON SELF-PITY OR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.
5. SADLY, THEY THINK OF THEMSELVES AS **VICTIMS** FOR ALL OF THEIR LIVES.
6. ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO **TEACH** OUR CHILDREN **NOT** TO PLAY THE **BLAME GAME** IS TO **TEACH** THEM TO LEARN TO **OVERLOOK MINOR OFFENSES** BY **LEARNING TO FORGIVE**, AND **MAKING A DELIBERATE CHOICE NOT TO:**
 - a. **TALK** ABOUT IT,
 - b. **GOSSIP** ABOUT IT,
 - c. **DWELL** ON IT, AND LET IT **GROW** INTO **PENT-UP BITTERNESS** OR **ANGER.**

D. **RESISTING THE BLAME GAME**

1. MANY TIMES IN **COFLICT** SITUATIONS WE WANT **OTHER** PEOPLE TO CHANGE **THEIR** CHOICES **BEFORE** WE CHANGE **OURS.**

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- a. **PROBLEM:** THAT MEANS WE ARE PUTTING OURSELVES AT THE MERCY OF OTHERS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONTROLLING OUR CHOICES!!
 - 1) IF THEY DON'T CHANGE... THEN NEITHER WILL WE.
 - 2) ... AND THAT MAKES US FEEL AND ACT LIKE A VICTIM!!
- 2. HOWEVER... GOD WANTS US TO CONTROL OUR OWN CHOICES NO MATTER WHAT OTHERS DO.
 - a. GOD WANTS US, AND OUR CHILDREN, TO BE VICTORS... NOT VICTIMS!
 - b. GOD WANTS US, AND OUR CHILDREN, TO BE VICTORIOUS OVER OUR SINFUL REACTIONS TO OTHERS.
 - c. GOD WANTS US, AND OUR CHILDREN, TO KNOW THE FREEDOM THERE IS IN USING SELF-CONTROL AND IN MAKING WISE CHOICES THAT PLEASE HIM.
 - d. WHEN (NOT IF)... WE DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND WISE IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS... THAT IS REAL FREEDOM!!!