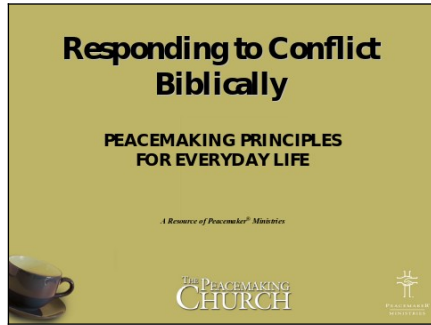
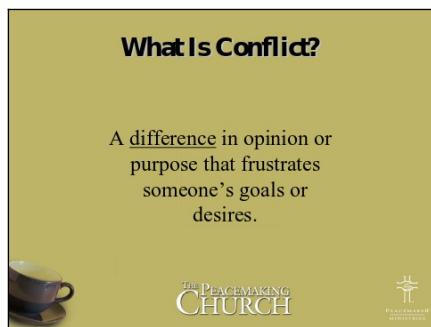


Slide 1



Welcome the participants. Open with prayer. If people are not acquainted with each other or with the presenter, you may want to have each person take a minute to introduce himself or herself to the group (this can vary depending on the size of the class. Generally it is effective to create class interaction as early as possible. Take a few minutes to explain the coffee cup theme used throughout the presentation.

Slide 2



You can ask group members to share their ideas, or simply go straight to the definition...

Let's use the following definition: **Conflict is a difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.**

We believe we are called to respond to conflict in a remarkably different way from how the world deals with conflict.

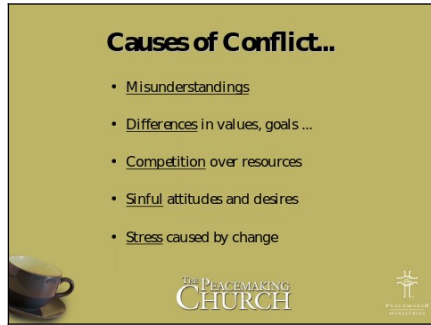
Biblical Basis: *Share as many Scriptures as appropriate.*

Luke 6:27-36

Gal 5:19-26

Matt 5:9

Slide 3



Start by asking for suggestions from the group regarding the major causes of conflict. Then use the slide to share the major sources and compare them to the group's responses.

Give each member of the team his or her own copy of the *Peacemaking Principles* pamphlet. Encourage everyone to browse through the pamphlet before you proceed to the next slide.

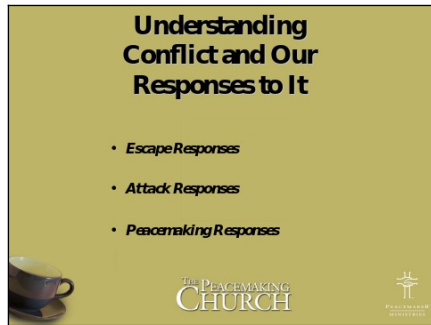
Slide 4



Inside your *Peacemaking Principles* pamphlet you will find what Peacemaker Ministries calls the Slippery Slope.

Note there are three major areas that represent responses to conflict. The three responses found on the left side of the slope are directed at escaping from the conflict, rather than dealing with it. The three responses found on the right side of the slope are directed at bringing as much pressure to bear on opponents as is necessary to defeat their claims and eliminate their opposition. The six responses in the center are peacemaking responses. Of the six peacemaking responses on the Slippery Slope, the first three usually are implemented by the individual, or with behind-

Slide 5



the-scenes coaching from other Christians. The second three peacemaking responses are used if talking privately to the other side has not worked, or is not appropriate.

There are three general ways we can respond to conflict:

Escape responses

People tend to use escape responses when they are more interested in avoiding or getting away from a conflict than in resolving it.

Attack responses

People tend to use attack responses when they are more interested in winning a conflict than in preserving a relationship or honoring God.

Peacemaking responses

Of the six Peacemaking responses on the Slippery Slope, the first three responses usually are implemented by the individual, or with behind the scenes coaching by other Christians. The second three Peacemaking responses are used if talking privately with the other party has not worked, or is not appropriate:

Mediation: Asking another person to assist you as a mediator is a reflection of Matt 18:16. A mediator does not resolve the problem, but acts as an unbiased third party that helps those involved to resolve their conflict. Generally, mediation requires more formal training.

Arbitration: A more formal approach is arbitration and involves both sides presenting their concerns and asking the arbitrator to decide what should be done.

Accountability: Oversight by church leaders (see Matt. 18:17).

Slide 6

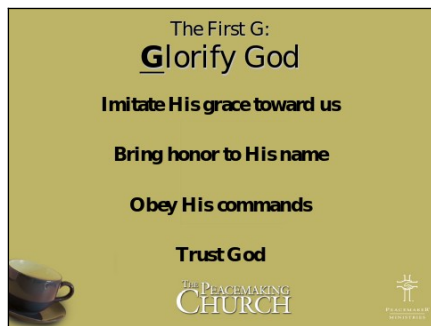


The biblical pattern for responding to conflict can be summarized by using the “Four G’s”.

The slide is automated to allow you to present one G at a time.

In the remainder of the presentation, we will take a deeper look at each of the G’s.

Slide 7



You may use these concepts to further discuss ways we can bring glory and honor to God.

Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we seek to please and honor God—by depending on His wisdom, power, and love; by faithfully obeying His commands; and by seeking to maintain a loving, merciful and forgiving attitude.

Bible verses to use, as appropriate:

1 Cor. 10:31

James 4:1-3

Psalm 37:1-6

Phil. 4:2-9

Col. 3:1-4

1 Peter 2:12

John 14:15

James 3:17-18

Rom. 12:17-21

Mark 11:25

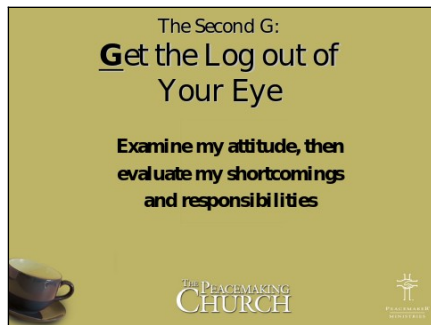
Slide 8



Peacemaking is not optional. We are commanded to make peace with God, others and ourselves.

Peacemaking is crucial to our testimony as Christians. Peacemaking is hard work, but well worth it as it provides opportunities to glorify God, serve others, and grow to be like Christ.

Slide 9

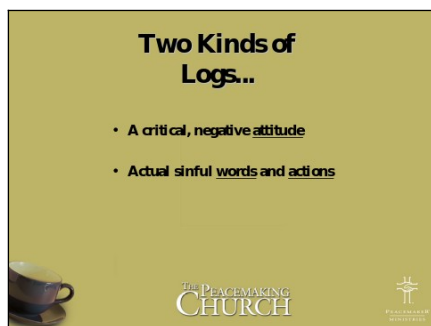


Instead of attacking others or dwelling on their wrongs, we can take responsibility for our own contributions to conflicts—confessing our sins, asking God to help us change attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused.

Bible verses to use, as appropriate:

- Matt:7:3-5
- 1 John 1:8-9
- Prov. 28:13
- Col. 3:5-14
- Luke 19:8

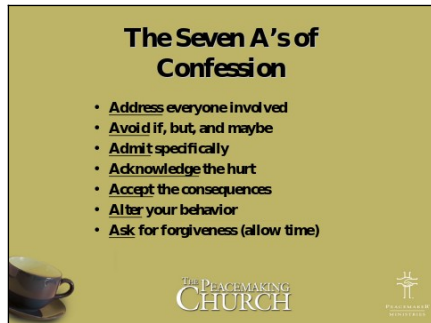
Slide 10



Attitudes can be critical, negative, or oversensitive. Our attitudes underlie our words and actions and “fan” the flame of conflict.

Words that “feed” conflict include: grumbling, complaining, gossiping, unloving criticism, lies, or exaggerations.

Slide 11



Actions would include: failing to do those things we should, failing to keep commitments or responsibilities, resisting godly advice, or withholding mercy and forgiveness.

We can remove the “log” from our eye through confession. One way to confess is to follow the pattern established in the 7 A’s.

Address—all those whom you affected.

Avoid—don’t try to excuse your wrongs by using words that shift the blame, or minimize your role.

Admit—both attitudes and actions.

Acknowledge—express sorrow for hurting someone.

Accept—willingly do what it takes to restore the other person to wholeness, such as making restitution.

Alter—change your attitudes and actions.

Ask—and allow time for forgiveness and healing to occur.

Bible verses to use, as appropriate:

Matt. 7:3-5

1 John 1:8-9

Prov. 28:13

Slide 12



Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we can choose to overlook minor offenses, or talk directly and graciously with those whose offenses seem too serious to overlook. When a conflict cannot be resolved in private, we can ask a peacemaking team member to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner.

Bible verses to use, as appropriate:

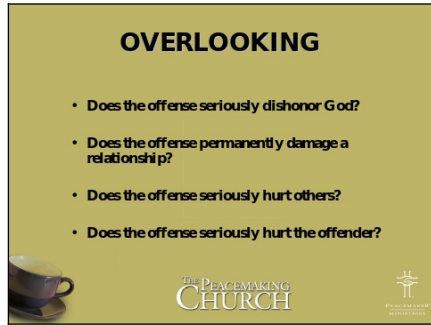
- Matt 5:15-20
- James 5:9
- Prov. 19:11
- Gal. 6:1-2
- Eph. 4:29
- 2 Tim. 2:24-26
- 1 Cor. 6:1-8

Slide 13



We know to talk to someone when...
A relationship is damaged. The offense is too serious to overlook. The next slide provides questions to help determine when an offense is too serious.

Slide 14



OVERLOOKING

- Does the offense seriously dishonor God?
- Does the offense permanently damage a relationship?
- Does the offense seriously hurt others?
- Does the offense seriously hurt the offender?

THE PEACEMAKING CHURCH

Before we approach someone about an offense, we should consider overlooking it (Prov. 19:11). How do we determine whether we can cover over an offense with love and let it go (1 Pet. 4:8), or whether we need to address it?

Consider these four questions:

Does the offense seriously dishonor God?

Does the offense permanently damage a relationship?

Does the offense seriously hurt/offend others?

Does the offense seriously hurt the offender?

If the answer is yes to any of the questions, then the matter should not be overlooked.

Slide 15



Loving Correction

- Help someone solve a problem
- Identify and lift a burden
- See own negative contribution to the problem and make a change
- Be a positive example to others

THE PEACEMAKING CHURCH

Talking with another person about his or her contribution to the conflict in a loving and helpful manner can actually serve the person in a number of ways.

Help resolve a problem.

Identify and lift a burden, such as unforgiveness.

Help the person see his or her contribution to the problem and make changes in behaviors or attitudes.

Provide a model, as you demonstrate how to resolve conflict in a biblical way.

Introduce and discuss each point, one at a time.

Slide 16



Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we can actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation. We can forgive others as God through Christ has forgiven us. Then we can seek just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences.

Bible verses to use, as appropriate:

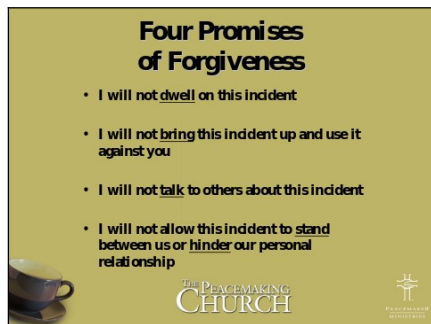
- Matt. 5:23-24
- Matt. 6:12
- Eph. 4:1-3, 32
- Matt. 7:12
- Phil. 2:3-4

Slide 17



We need to remember that God first forgave us. Forgiving requires a spirit of humble recognition that Jesus is our example of forgiveness. Forgiveness is a decision with four promises.

Slide 18



We can think of forgiveness as a decision that makes four promises:
I will not dwell on this incident.
I will not bring this incident up and use it against you.
I will not talk to others about this incident.
I will not allow this incident to stand between us or

hinder our personal relationship.

Making these promises can change our outlook on the words “I forgive you.” It certainly can impact our behavior afterwards!

Bible verses to use, as appropriate:

Matt. 6:12

1 Cor. 13:5

Eph. 4:32

Slide 19



Let's look at forgiveness as the Bible teaches it. We are told to forgive as the Lord forgives us (Col. 3: 12-14). Therefore, forgiveness is not:

A sentimental concept

A feeling

Forgetting

Excusing

A temporary pardon

We must rely on the Lord's strength to forgive, especially when the hurt or betrayal is serious.

Slide 20



As we end this overview of biblical peacemaking principles, a helpful reminder from God's Word is found in Philippians 4:4-9: Rejoice in the Lord always. Let your gentleness be evident.

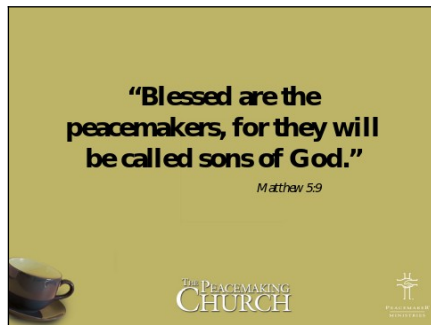
Replace anxiety with prayer.

See things as they really are.

(Note: We often define those opposed to us largely in terms of negative qualities, e.g., "she is full of

bitterness,” or “he just doesn’t know when to stop.” In the Philipians passage, Paul tells us that we must also “think” about the good qualities of those who oppose us, such as what is noble, right, or pure about their lives. Recognizing strengths as well as weaknesses in others helps us approach them from a more balanced perspective, as brothers and sisters in Christ whom we are called to love and serve.). Practice what you’ve learned.
Close with prayer.

Slide 21



Remember Jesus himself said: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

Close the session with prayer.