

Responding to Conflict Biblically

**PEACEMAKING PRINCIPLES
FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

A Resource of Peacemaker® Ministries



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Conflict...



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**Where two or
three come
together in
Jesus' name ...
there will eventually be
conflict.**



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Discussion Question

What is this video saying to us about conflict?



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What Is Conflict?

**A difference in
opinion or
purpose that
frustrates
someone's goals
or desires.**



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On your note cards write...

1. One word that describes how I've responded to conflict in the past
2. One word that describes how I currently deal with conflict
3. One word that describes how I would like to respond to conflict

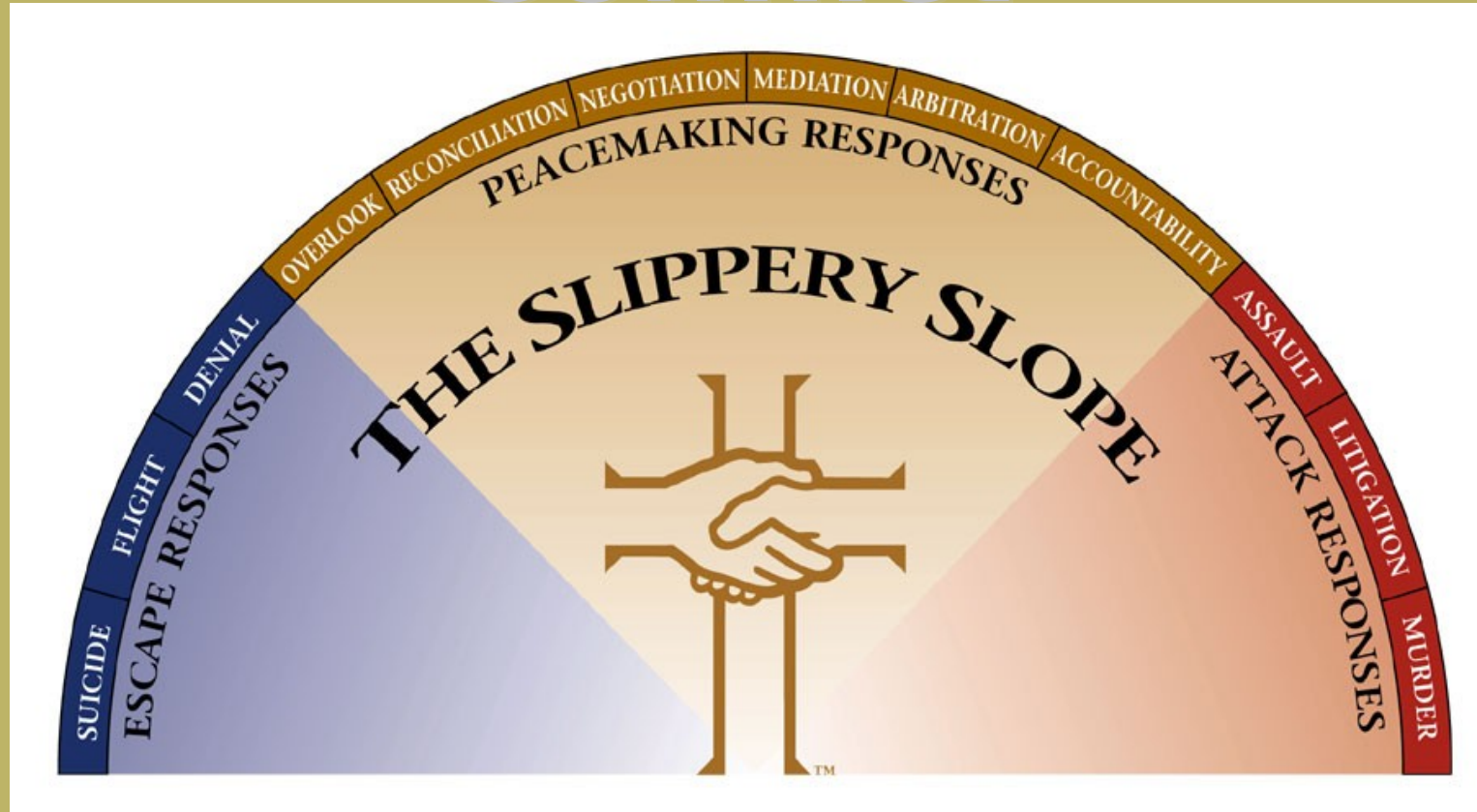


Causes of Conflict...

- Misunderstandings
- Differences in values, goals ...
- Competition over resources
- Sinful attitudes and desires
- Stress caused by change



Responses to Conflict



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Understanding Conflict and Our Responses to It

- *Escape Responses*
- *Attack Responses*
- *Peacemaking Responses*



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ESCAPE RESPONSES

- **DENIAL**
 - Pretend that a problem does not exist
- **FLIGHT**
 - Run away
- **SUICIDE**
 - The ultimate escape



ATTACK RESPONSES

- **ASSAULT**
 - Use force or verbal attack
- **LITIGATION**
 - Take before a civil judge
- **MURDER**
 - “Kill” the opponent



PEACEMAKING RESPONSES: Personal Peacemaking

- **OVERLOOK**
 - Quietly overlook and forgive an offense
- **RECONCILIATION**
 - Through confession or loving correction
- **NEGOTIATION**
 - Meet the substantive interests



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PEACEMAKING RESPONSES: Assisted

Peacemaking

- **MEDIATION**
 - Ask someone to help
- **ARBITRATION**
 - Appoint someone to decide
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
 - Team / Church leaders intervene



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Biblical Foundation for Peacemaking

- Christ
- Church
- Counsel
- God's Word



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Pattern for Resolving *Glorify* Conflict

Get the log out of your eye

Gently restore

Go and be reconciled



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The First G:
Glorify God

**Imitate His grace towards
us**

Bring honor to His name

Obey His commands

Trust God



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Peacemaking is Not Optional

- *Peace with God, others, and self*
- *Peacemaking is crucial to our testimony*
- *We must work hard at Peacemaking*



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Conflict provides opportunities to...

Glorify God

Serve other people

Grow to be like Christ



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The Second G:
**Get the Log out of
Your Eye**

**Examine my attitude,
then evaluate my
shortcomings
and responsibilities**



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Two Kinds of Logs

- A critical, negative attitude
- Actual sinful words and actions



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Discussion Question

**What does this video
teach us about making a
good confession?**



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The Seven A's of Confession

- Address everyone involved
- Avoid if, but, and maybe
- Admit specifically
- Acknowledge the hurt
- Accept the consequences
- Alter your behavior
- Ask for forgiveness (allow time)



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The Third G:
Gently Restore

**Gently correct and restore
a fellow believer.**



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When Should You Go and Talk to Someone?

- *When a relationship is damaged*
- *When the offense is too serious to overlook*



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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?



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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**



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Seek to Restore

- **Avoid lecturing**
- **Use good listening skills**
- **Focus on what God has done through Jesus to forgive and deliver you**



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Preparing to Talk to Another

- Pray for humility and wisdom
- Plan words carefully
- Anticipate likely reactions
- Choose the right time and place
- Assume the best about the other person
- Listen carefully
- Speak only to build others up
- Ask for feedback from the other person
- Recognize your limits



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The Fourth G:
**Go and Be
Reconciled**

**Replace hostility and
separation with peace and
reconciliation**



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**Christians are
the most
forgiven people
in the world ...**

**Therefore, shouldn't we be
the most forgiving people in
the world?**



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Forgive as God Forgave You

- **How do we develop a spirit of forgiveness?**
- **Forgiveness is a decision involving four promises...**



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Forgiveness is a Decision to Make

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



Forgiveness Is Not ...

- **A sentimental concept**
- **A feeling**
- **Forgetting**
- **Excusing**
- **A temporary pardon**



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Forgiveness means we must renounce sinful attitudes and

expectations, not:

- Expect the offender to earn or deserve our forgiveness
- Desire to punish the offender
- Demand a guarantee that it won't occur again



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Discussion Question

**What does this video say
to us as brothers and
sisters in Christ?**



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Dealing with Unreasonable People

- We have divine weapons (PRAY!)
- Control your tongue
- Seek godly advisors
- Keep doing what is right
- Recognize your limits
- The ultimate weapon: love
 - Protects you from your own bitterness
 - Can lead others to repentance



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Do Not Merely Listen to the Word...

- **Focus on improving one or two peacemaking skills**
- **Memorize key Bible passages on peacemaking**
- **Commit to reconcile with someone in your life**



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Philippians 4:4-9 Tells Us To:

- **Rejoice in the Lord always**
- **Let your gentleness be evident**
- **Replace anxiety with prayer**
- **See things as they really are**
- **Practice what you've learned**



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**“Blessed are the
peacemakers, for
they will be called
sons of God.”**

Matthew 5:9



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