

## 20-Are You A Peacemaker?

Ken Sande heads up the organization Peacemaker Ministries. Peacemaker Ministries is dedicated to Christian Conciliation. Peacemakers believe conflict provides three significant opportunities:

Glorify God by trusting, obeying and imitating Him

Serve other people by helping to bear their burdens or by confronting them in love

Grow to be like Christ by confessing sin and turning from attitudes that promote conflict

Are you a peacemaker or a crazy maker? Do you want to repent of your crazy maker habits? If you have had enough of chaos and strife in your relationships then read on. Peacemakers shares the Four G's that will bring peace to your relationships:

Glorify God

Get the log out of your own eye

Gently restore

Go and be reconciled

We have been called to live for the glory of God. We can glorify God in the midst of conflict by trusting Him, obeying him and imitating him. Sande suggests asking the question "How can I please and honor the Lord in this situation"?

Now that you have chosen to Glorify God it is time to deal with the log in your own eye. Jesus states in **Matthew 7:5** "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye". Sometimes the log is a critical, negative or overly sensitive attitude that has led to unnecessary conflict. Peacemakers suggest meditating on Philippians 4:2-9 which describes the attitude Christians must have when they are involved in conflict.

The second kind of log is sinful words or actions. With the help of brothers and sisters you can take an objective look at yourself and own your contribution to the conflict. Admit your wrongs. Own your words and actions! Face the root cause of your behavior so you can repent and turn

away from future conflict. (For more on Peacemaker Ministries check out the appendix.)

With the log removed from your own eye it is time to gently restore. Jesus taught restoration not condemnation. Galatians 6:1 is the best guide.

"Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently." Before restoring, ask yourself "does the offense rise to the level of restoration or can it be overlooked and forgiven"? Peacemakers offer great guidance on "How to restore". Also refer to the session "What Are The Six Keys To Peace In Relationships" for Rick Warren's advice on restoration.

Go and be reconciled is the most unique aspect of biblical peacemaking. It is the genuine pursuit of forgiveness and reconciliation. **Colossians 3:12-14** is your guide. "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Peacemakers has four promises of Forgiveness:

I will not dwell on this incident

I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you

I will not talk to others about this incident

I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship

You now have the Peacemaker Four G's. Go forth and restore damaged relationships!

### Verses

**Philippines 4:4-9** "Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. 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 understanding, will guard your hearts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from

me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

**Personal Reflection:**

Which of your relationships need restoration? How can you prepare yourself to restore these relationships? Who can come alongside you and provide encouragement during your journey of restoration?

**Group Discussion:**

Share what you are struggling with as the Holy Spirit encourages you to restore damaged relationships.

How can the group walk with you on your journey?