

The Peacemaker
Introduction and Chapter 1

I. Introduction

A. Conflict

1. Is inevitable
2. Is helpful
3. Is surprising
4. Is damaging
5. Is revealing
6. Is an opportunity

B. Peacemaking

1. Is difficult
2. Is an obligation
3. Is a blessing
4. Is a model of Jesus Christ
5. Is dependent on the Holy Spirit
6. Is hopeful:
7. Is rare:
8. Is conscience-clearing
9. Is a witness to the power of the Gospel

II. Aims of the book

1. How to use conflict as an opportunity to demonstrate the love and power of Jesus
2. When it is appropriate to overlook an offense
3. How to change attitudes and habits that lead to conflict
4. How to confess wrongs honestly and effectively
5. When to assert your rights
6. How to correct others effectively
7. How to forgive others and achieve genuine reconciliation
8. How to negotiate just and reasonable agreements
9. When to ask the church to intervene in a conflict
10. How to deal with people who refuse to be reasonable
11. When it is appropriate for a Christian to go to court

III. Four Primary Causes of Conflict

1. Misunderstandings resulting from poor communication
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, opinions
3. Competition over limited resources
4. Sinful attitudes and habits that lead to sinful words and actions (James 4:1-2)

IV. The Slippery Slope of Conflict

A. Escape Responses (Focus is “me” = peace-faking)

1. Denial
2. Flight
3. Suicide

B. Attack Responses (Focus in “you” = peace-breaking)

1. Assault
2. Litigation
3. Murder

C. Peacemaking Responses (Focus is “us”)

1. Personal Peacemaking (private)
 - a. Overlook an offense
 - b. Reconciliation
 - c. Negotiation
2. Assisted Peacemaking (involving other Christians)
 - a. Mediation
 - b. Arbitration
 - c. Accountability

V. The Four G's

1. **Glorify** God (1 Cor. 10:31): How can I please and honor God in this situation?
2. **Get** the log out of your own eye (Matt. 7:5): How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?
3. **Gently** restore (Gal. 6:1): How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?
4. **Go** and be reconciled (Mat. 5:24): How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?