



HOW TO BE A

PEACEMAKER

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CONTENTS

WE ARE CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS

..... 2

PREPARING YOURSELF

..... 4

PRINCIPLES OF A PEACEMAKER

..... 7

THE PEACEMAKING STEPS FROM JESUS

..... 8


RECOMMENDED READING

..... 12

WE ARE CALLED TO BE PEACEMAKERS.
NO "IFS" OR "BUTS" ABOUT IT.

- Jesus calls us to be peacemakers -
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (Matthew 5:9). He also instructs us to reconcile and settle matters quickly (Matthew 5:23-26) and to love and pray for those who seek to do us harm (Matthew 5:43-48).
- The Apostle Paul instructs to be diligent to make peace - *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone (Romans 12:18).* Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification (Romans 14:19).

- Jesus' brother, James, offers a promise to peacemakers - *Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness* (James 3:18).
- And finally a command in Hebrews 12:14 - *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*



START BY PREPARING YOURSELF.
DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PEACE?
PEACE STARTS IN YOU.

1. Will you glorify God in all you do, rather than just being right, justified, or getting even? Honoring God and his kingdom is more important than my rights or being right. God values unity and peace (1 Corinthians 10:31).

2. Do you have peace in your heart? Are you at peace with God? Bringing peace to our outside world has to start inside us. What comes out of us comes from that which is in our heart (Matthew 15:16-20). Note the warning of James 4:1 - that a lack of peace starts inside us with our desires. Take the time to prayerfully reflect what is going on inside you that has led to the conflict.

3. Check your own heart and motives. What is your part in the conflict? What do you need to own? Jesus said before we nitpick the speck in someone else, we address the log in our own eye (Matthew 7:5).

4. Desire peace. Want it. Choose to respond with a gentle answer. Proverbs 15:1 - A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Ephesians 4:2 - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

5. Decide to love and honor the person or parties in conflict. Love is seeking the best for another. What is best for that person or party? Romans 12:10 - Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

6. Practice the simple instruction of James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.

PRINCIPLES OF A PEACEMAKER BY AMPLIFIED PEACE

1. We seek to understand before being understood.
2. We humbly listen and learn, not sit in judgment.
3. We enter into open dialog, not debates.
4. We frame questions respectfully.
5. We respect each other's unique journey and perspective.
6. We honor relationships over the need to be right.
7. We believe we are engaging in a story bigger than ourselves.



THE PEACEMAKING STEPS FROM JESUS

Matthew 18:15-20 provides a model for the process of confronting a professed follower of Jesus about a wrong, offense, or conflict. The goal of this process is peace through confession and repentance that leads to restoration and reconciliation. Determine if you can choose to overlook minor differences (Proverbs 17:14; 19:11).

1. PRIVATE MEETING

(vs. 15). Out of genuine love for the person you are confronting, meet one on one (assuming it is physically safe to do so). Meet as many times as needed. Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15). Follow the principles of peacemaking above.

2. PRIVATE CONFERENCE

(vs. 16). Both parties agree to meet with other mature leaders, as many times as needed. The "witness" is not a witness to the offense, but a witness to the attempt at reconciliation. If possible, the parties agree on the people who will be present. These people are mature followers of Jesus who bring Godly wisdom, objectivity, and safety to the process of reconciliation. This is also the context for Matthew 18:18-20.

3. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(vs. 17). If the offending party refuses to own the issue and/or reconcile, then the next step is to widen the circle and involve a larger group of people or the leadership of those directly involved. The “church” is rarely the entire church unless the issue affects the whole church. It is usually a subset of the church that has a connection or relationship to the people involved. The goal here is not to punish, but to invite a larger group of people to help bring understanding, reconciliation, and peace.

4. LORDSHIP, DISCIPLESHIP, OR EVANGELISM

(vs. 17). It might come to the point that you realize the offending party has a hard heart and refuses to listen or reconcile. At this point the whole focus and direction changes. Jesus said to treat them as you would someone outside the faith (i.e. pagan or tax collector). Jesus always had compassion for these folks who were far from God. Switch from reconciliation to praying for the person and trying to disciple or evangelize a person toward faith or a more mature faith. Note, that someone who creates division must be silenced and not allowed to continue the disruption - see Titus 3:10.

RECOMMENDED

READING

A Gentle Answer

Our "Secret Weapon" in an Age of Us Against Them

by Scott Sauls

The Peacemaker

A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict

by Ken Sande

Peace Talks

The Good News of Jesus in a Donkey Elephant War

by David Drum