

# BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Leadership in Resolving Conflict



Louis Bertram

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## WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT A PEACEMAKER?



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## THE GOSPEL

JESUS HAS RESOLVED THE BIGGEST CONFLICT THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

**Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

- This conflict was resolved through the exercise of God's love, grace, mercy, and sacrifice.

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## OUR ABILITY TO RESOLVE CONFLICT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN LIFE OR DEATH



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## RESOLVING CONFLICT DOESN'T COME NATURAL TO ANYONE

- Resolving conflict is a skill or set of skills that must be learned.

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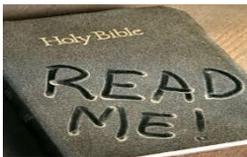
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## THE BIBLE IS COMPLETELY SUFFICIENT TO TEACH THE SKILLS NEEDED IN RESOLVING CONFLICT



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### WE MUST EMBRACE A 2 CORINTHIANS 5:9 ATTITUDE

“we make it our aim to please him”

- Just two choices on the shelf, pleasing God, or pleasing self

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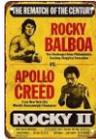
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### EVERYONE EXPERIENCES CONFLICT

- Luke 17:1a - "It is impossible but that offenses will come..."



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### WHAT IS CONFLICT?

- Conflict happens when you are at odds with another person over what you think, want, or do.

Sande, Ken; Johnson, Kevin (2011-05-01). Resolving Everyday Conflict (Kindle Locations 118-119). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

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# THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF CONFLICT

- 1. Preference Issues
- 2. Sin Issues

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## PREFERENCE ISSUE



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## SIN ISSUE

- Confrontation
- Confession
- Repentance
- Forgiveness
- Reconciliation



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### THE ROOT OF CONFLICT

A heart and mind that thinks – “I deserve to have things my way”

▪ James 3:13-16



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### THE ANATOMY OF CONFLICT

When I'm willing to sin in order to get what I want, or sin because I didn't get what I wanted.

▪ James 4:1-6



Louis Rietman



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### THE GOALS OF A PEACEMAKER

▪ 2 Corinthians 5:9

▪ Eph. 4:32 – Forgive the way God has forgiven you

▪ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 – Forgiveness has the goal of reconciliation

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### ATTITUDES OF A PEACEMAKER

▪ Ephesians 4:1-3

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Tolerance
- Love
- Willingness to work long and hard for unity and peace

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### ACTIONS OF A PEACEMAKER

▪ Ephesians 4:25-31

- Be Honest
- Solve today's problems today
- Attack problems, not people
- Act, don't react

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### COMMON HINDRANCES OR CHALLENGES



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# 1. I'M JUST NOT GOOD AT CONFRONTATION OR CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

**Proverbs 16:20** He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he.

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# I'VE EVEN PRAYED FOR WISDOM IN THIS AREA OFTEN?

**Proverbs 28:9** He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

"Why should what **we** have to say to God (prayer) be deemed more important than what **He** has to say to us?" Jay E. Adams

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# WHO SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?

▪ Initiating conflict resolution can be difficult, but it must be done.

- Mt 5:23-24
- Luke 17:3



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## 2. I NEVER REALLY KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN OR WHAT TO SAY.

**Proverbs 16:23** The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

**Proverbs 15:28** The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.



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## 3. DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT SOME HOW, THINGS ALWAYS END UP IN AN ANGRY ARGUMENT.

**Proverbs 17:14** The beginning of strife *is* as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.



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## CHECK YOUR GOAL

Are you just trying to get the other party to see things from your perspective?

**Proverbs 13:10** Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised *is* wisdom.



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## ARE YOU LISTENING

**Proverbs 18:13** He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.



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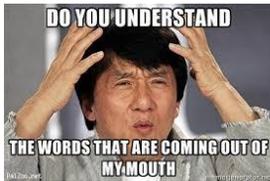
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## ARE WE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE?



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## ARE WE SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE?

**Amos 3:3** Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

- Define your terms, and make sure everyone can agree on what they mean.
- A good way to figure out if everyone is on the same page, is to try and summarize what the other person has just said.
- Example
  - "So what you're saying is..."
  - "Let me make sure I understand what you're saying, ..."

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### ARE MY VOLUME AND TONE PEACEABLE?

**Proverbs 15:1** A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.



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### AM I CLAMMING UP OR PLAYING QUIET MOUSE?

• We are commanded to speak in the Scriptures.

**Ephesians 4:15** But **speaking** the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:

**Ephesians 4:25** Wherefore putting away lying, **speak** every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

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### AM I SAYING TOO MUCH?

**Proverbs 17:27** He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

**Proverbs 29:11** A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

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### DO I NEED TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL?

**Proverbs 29:20** Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

**Proverbs 12:18** There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise *is* health.



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### AM I WILLING TO EXTEND AND EXPRESS FORGIVENESS?

**Luke 17:3-4** Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.



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### AM I WILLING TO CONFESS MY SIN AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS?

**Matthew 5:23-24** Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.



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## AM I WILLING TO PATIENTLY AND HUMBLLY WORK TO RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP?

**Proverbs 18:19** A brother offended is *harder to be won* than a strong city: and *their contentions are like the bars of a castle.*

- You can't demand instant forgiveness and restoration, you can only work toward it.



Louis Bacon




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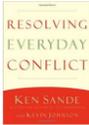
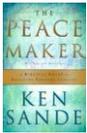
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## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



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