

Conflict as an Opportunity to Glorify God 18 February 2024

Series Outline

1. Glorify God
 - Conflict provides opportunities
 - Biblical pathway for conflict resolution
 - Attitudinal and Transactional Forgiveness
 - Live at peace
 - Trust in the Lord and do good
2. Self-examination
3. Addressing others' sin
4. Forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration

Resources

- Scripture
- *The Peacemaker*, 3rd edition by Ken Sande
- *Pursing Peace* by Robert D. Jones

Conflict provides opportunities

Prov 19:11; Matt 5:23-24; Matt 18:15;
Matt 18:16; 1 Cor 6:1-8; Matt 18:17

1 Sam 2:22-36;
Gen 16:1-6;
2 Sam 17:1-23



Acts 14:19;
1 Cor 6:1-8;
Gen 4:8-16

From *The Peacemaker*, by Ken Sande, p. 22

Conflict – “a difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates some’s goals or desires” (Sande, p29)

- Not all conflict is bad; it provides us an opportunity to glorify God.
- Consider: Is the God who raised the dead back to life able to help us forgive someone who has hurt us deeply?
- Requires us to acknowledge and believe that:
 1. God is trustworthy, reliable, and able to help us forgive others (Prov 3:5-6).
 2. God calls us to forgive in obedience to Him (Eph 4:32, John 14:23-24).
 3. God set the example of forgiveness for us to imitate (Luke 23:34a).
 4. God should receive the glory when we forgive people of deep hurts (1 Peter 3:14-16).

- Conflicts get worse or better based on what we say and do in them. Responses reflects the overflow of our heart. We are used to hearing Matt 12:34, but Ernie Baker also says, “Out of the overflow of the heart, *the ear hears.*”

Biblical pathway for conflict resolution

CONTRASTING THE TWO LEVELS OF FORGIVENESS

Level 1 Forgiveness <i>Attitudinal, Heart, Dispositional</i>	Level 2 Forgiveness <i>Transacted, Granted, Relational</i>
Jesus’s command in Mark 11:25	Jesus’s command in Luke 17:3b-4
Jesus’s prayer in Luke 23:34a	God’s answer in Acts 2:36-41
<i>Vertical focus:</i> Between me and God	<i>Horizontal focus:</i> Between me and the offender
To release bitterness from my heart: <i>internal</i>	To reconcile my relationship with the offender: <i>relational</i>
<i>Unconditional:</i> Independent of the offender’s repentance	<i>Conditional:</i> Dependent of the offender’s repentance
Commitments to God, in God’s presence (1) to release the offender from my judgment and to entrust him to God, (2) to empty my heart of bitterness, (3) to be ready to grant level 2 forgiveness and reconcile the relationship, if the offender repents.	Commitments to the repentant offender, in the offender’s presence: I will not raise the forgiven offense (1) to myself (dwell, brood), (2) to others (gossip), (3) to you (use against you later).

From *Pursuing Peace*, by Robert D. Jones, p. 132

Live at peace

Three dimensions:

- 1) Peace with God (John 3:16, Rom 5:1-2)
- 2) Peace with others; “unity” (Ps 133:1; Eph 2:11-18)
Unity – “the presence of genuine harmony, understanding, and goodwill between people”(p46)
- 3) Peace with yourself; “internal peace” (1 John 3:21-24)
Internal peace – “a sense of wholeness, contentment, tranquility, order, rest, and security” (p46); not obtained through our own effort, a by-product of righteousness

Trust in the Lord and do good

Sande says, “Trusting God means that *in spite of our questions, doubts, and fears* we draw on his grace and continue to believe that he is loving, that he is in control, and that he is always working for our good.” (p65)

We must trust, obey, imitate, forgive, and point to God in the midst of our hurts. Our focus must be on God, who alone is worthy of our glory, honor, praise, trust, obedience, and imitation. That opens our hearts to be grown by God through the conflict, and it lets our light shine before others so that they will see and give glory to God.