

Isaac's Path to Peace

- Gerar** Drag away and ruminare. Ruminare means to chew over and over.
- Esek** Press upon - strife and contention
- Sitnah** Accusation – Anger - hatred
- Beersheba** Well of my covenant

Peacemakers practice peace by finding acceptance in the midst of conflict.

Genesis 4:1

Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man." Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.

Genesis 4:3-12

In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

Genesis 4:3-12

The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 4:3-12

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."

Genesis 4:3-12

And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

Source of Conflict

1. First mention of anger = "to burn hot"
2. First mention of sin = "miss the mark"
3. Why God asks why
4. Worship problem becomes an anger problem which becomes a sin problem
5. Worried about our position in the group

Peacemakers Practice Peace

1. Finding the path for acceptance

Finding Acceptance in God

The world grants acceptance based on popularity, physical appearance and success. God grants acceptance based on faith and alignment with His Kingdom. God always provides a way to be accepted.

1 Corinthians 11:18-19

For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

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Peacemakers Practice Peace

- 1. Finding the path for acceptance
- 2. Providing a sense of urgency

Matthew 5:21-23

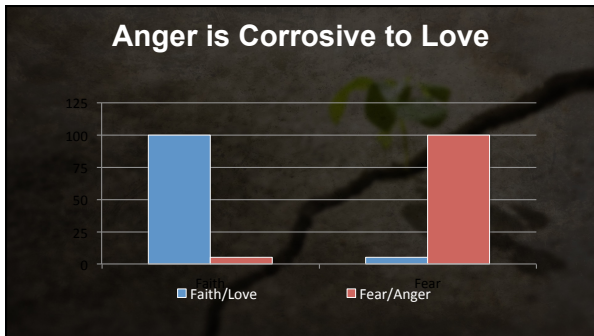
“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:23-24

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Fruit of Conflict: Anger

1. Anger is a natural byproduct of injustice
2. Anger can be both loud and quiet
3. Anger is often misplaced
4. Enduring anger is a pride problem
5. Anger is corrosive to love, faith, health



Understand Conflict Dynamics

Affirm acceptance	Affirm acceptance and security in Christ	Meet the real need
Inspire Urgency	Anger is a letter from Danger. D=Delay	Anger is corrosive
Find Path	Altar Conviction	Spirit is working

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1. Finding the path for acceptance
2. Providing a sense of urgency
3. Encourage a return to giving

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Affirm acceptance	Affirm acceptance and security in Christ	Meet the real need
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Find Path	Altar Conviction	Spirit is working
Encourage Giving	Return to your giving ASAP	Giving is seed for the future favor

