

I. Announcements:

- A. **Slide1 Youth Camp Sponsorships:** Camp is right around the corner and our 678 & RISE ministries are really excited to be heading to *Camp Cedar Crest* July 28-Aug. 1st. If anyone remembers there 1st camp experience you know that some core memories and moments with God are made there. We want students to experience the AWE of God with us this summer. We could use some help sponsoring 10-15 young people to make it to camp this year, you can donate to the *Camp Sponsorship selection* on the [church App](#) or [Website](#), or drop it in the offering box with a note. *Thank you for your investment in the youth here at Calvary.*
- B. **Slide2 CMCS Employment Opportunities:** *Calvary Murrieta Christian School* is hiring for the upcoming year. We have several positions from preschool through 8th grade. Please check out our website at cmcsweb.com to view the open positions.
1. **Also** school starts August 15th and enrollment is open. Our preschool starts at age 2 years 8 months, and we are enrolling through 8th grade. Schedule a tour today to take a look at our campus and learn more about our programs. We can't wait to show you our **amazing campus** and what CMCS can offer your child.
- C. **Slide3 Prayer:** *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* Rm12:18
Lord, may we be more about resolving conflict, than dissolving relationships.

II. Intro:

- A. Last week Jason B started our series on **Horizontal Focus**. *Loving others through... Fellowship, Conflict, Service, Witnessing.*
- B. Today we have **conflicts everywhere**. **Ask:** We have conflicts between _____ .
1. Conflicts **between** nations (and *within* nations). Conflicts between the **sexes, generations, races, religions, cultures, political parties, churches, marriages, friends, employees.**

C. Conflict is inevitable. *No relationship is immune.*

1. When managed biblically, conflict can serve as a catalyst for change and an opportunity for spiritual and relational growth.
2. Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. Do you naturally breathe grace? I don't. Yet, it is what God calls us all to do.
 - a) Not all of us are called to teach a Bible study, sing on the worship team, or work with youth. *But all of us* are called to **go be reconciled** (Mt.5:23,24). *To our brothers and sisters, our friends and family, and to our people in our churches and community. [So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God]* reconciliation b4 worship!
 - b) Everything in Scripture is about *how to remain connected*—to God and man.

D. I believe the bible reveals 2 types of Offenses: Coverable & Uncoverable.

1. Coverable Offenses - 1 Pet.4:8 *And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.*
 - a) Ask yourself, *Is it covered?* Are you dwelling on it? Can you drop it? Is it eating you up? Are you finding others to talk about it w/you?
2. Uncoverable Offenses - If the matter continues to rattle around inside or carry on and on inside your head, then it should be handled.
 - a) [Ps: I am not talking about *abusive situations*. Protect yourself and kids]

III. Slide4 THE 4 G's OF PEACEMAKING Ken Sande

- A. Glorify God - Make it your 1st concern. How do I please God thru this? Move from Horiz to Vert look at it.
- B. Get the Log out - Mt.7 (1st your log, then their speck). *For some reason it's easier to see their sawdust, and miss your telephone pole.*
- C. Gently Restore - Gal.6:1 *you who are spiritual restore such a 1 in a spirit of gentleness.*
- D. Go & be Reconciled - think reconciliation before resolution.

IV. Slide5 THE 2 WRONG WAYS PEOPLE DEAL WITH CONFLICT

A. Rick Warren said, When it comes to conflicts you are a skunk or a turtle?

1. When the skunk in the relationship gets upset they spray and everybody knows it. When the turtle in the relationship gets upset, they pull into their shell and hide. [aka the Attack Response - the Escape Response]

B. The Attack Response (skunk). They react, not act. They fight, but not fair. They are the bullies or manipulators.

C. The Escape Response (turtle). Let's just pretend it didn't happen. So they usually default to avoid or appease.

1. Avoiding – they say, *I don't want to rock the boat*, but often that's just cowardice. Don't run from the problem.
2. Appeasing – they believe in *peace at any price*. Or, *just always give in*. That's codependency. That's *peace-fakers, not peace-makers*.

V. Slide6a THE 1 RIGHT WAY PEOPLE DEAL WITH CONFLICT

A. The Peacemaking Response.

1. They look for a way by saying let's fix it! - *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God*. Mt 5:9
2. Jesus *never ran* from a conflict. God blesses peacemakers. *Because a peacemaker is a bridge builder*.
3. Slide6b They look for a Gospel Centered Response. *How did God reconcile us?*
 - a) 2 Cor.5:18,19 *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*
4. Slide6c They look for a Grace Based Response. They see these are *family matters* and say, *We Can Work it Out!*

*Life is very short, and there's no time For fussing and fighting, my friend,
I have always thought that it's a crime, So I will ask you once again,
Try to see it **my way**, Only time will tell if I am right or I am wrong,
While you see it **your way**, There's a chance that we may fall apart before too
long—We can work it out, We can work it out.* [Beatles 65, Paul McCartney/John Lennon]

VI. Slide 7a THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RECONCILIATION

A. Reconciliation, who's job is it Anyways? (Mt.5:23-25)

1. Isn't it **God's** job to show people they are wrong? **No**. Usually in scripture **He** used **humans** for this purpose. [think: Nathan w/David. Paul w/Peter. Elijah w/Ahab]
2. Conflict doesn't resolve itself accidentally. *It must be intentional.*
But I thought time heals all things? No, if it does, *the next time you go to the doctors office, just remain in waiting room. :)*
 - a) The only way to **resolve conflict** is to **face it**.

B. Slide 7b When Is It My Responsibility To Go?

1. **Go**, if **you're** in Sin - Mt.5:23,24. **Go**, if **they** are in sin - Mt.18:15.
2. If they are in sin, shouldn't **they** come to **me**?
 - a) They might not *know* that they did sin against you.
 - b) They might not be *ready* to come to you. **But** your attitude of **submission** & **love** will help them to repent.
3. The Ideal is **both** cooling down & they meet each other on the way to each others house to seek reconciliation.
 - a) *It's best when you start fighting over it was my fault, no it was mine. :)*

C. Slide 7c How Much Time Do I Have To Start Reconciliation?

1. **Note** the **urgency** in Mt.5:24,25. *Leave it there - 1st - quickly.*
2. **Note** the close tie between **worship** & **reconciliation**.

VII. Slide 8a THE 4 STEPS OF CONFRONTATION Mt.18:15-17 How Do I Confront?

A. *If another believer sins against you, **go privately** and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. 16 But if you are unsuccessful, **take one or two others** with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. 17 If the person still refuses to listen, **take your case to the church**. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a **pagan or a corrupt tax collector**.* NLT

B. 1) **KEEP IT PRIVATE** (Mt.18:15) *READ*

1. **Alone** - Keep the Circle small.

a) Anything else is Gossip. *But I need counsel.* (be careful: that seems that's the *next step*)

2. **Gaining a Brother** - This is our **Goal**. The very heart of the issue is to gain back a bro/sis.

a) Above all else, go to them w/the idea of **winning your brother**, **not** an *Argument*. [It is possible to **win** the argument **& lose** your brother]

3. **Some Principles**: **Don't condemn** the offender. **Don't** hold it **in**. **Don't** let it **out** (Gossip).

a) Watch out for the *Transmutable Disease* of **Gossip** or *leprosy of the tongue*. *If 2 couples have a problem, & each of the 4 told only 2 friends, which only tell their spouse, now 20 people are involved.* [no wonder why Jesus & Paul compared *sin* to **leaven**]

4. **Our Attitude**: *if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.* Gal.6:1

a) **Restore** - used especially as a surgical term, of *setting a bone or joint*. Which obviously requires **patience & tenderness**.

(1) Our **attitude** should not be that of a **policeman** out to arrest a criminal, **but rather that of a physician** seeking to **heal a wound**.

b) **Note**: this doesn't necessarily mean *only one visit*. **Make every possible attempt to do this before going on.**

C. Slide8b 2) GET HELP FROM A FEW (Mt.18:16)

1. Do you know why to bring in 1 or 2 more? *INTIMIDATION!!!* :) No! The opposite. Bring in *worthy arbitrators* the offender could receive from.
2. Note again, this isn't necessarily only a *1 time shot* either [perhaps several visits]
3. They must work at this *until* they've reached *reconciliation*, or are convinced it must go to *step #3*.
4. Note: it *doesn't* call for *2 pastors, or Elders, or Deacons*, but *2 Christians*. *It is ALL of our jobs!*

D. Slide8c 3) GET HELP FROM THE CHURCH (Mt.18:17a)

1. Telling it to the Church is still a part of trying to *Win* an erring brother.
2. Very rarely does it have to come to this if the *1st steps* were done properly.
3. I believe that *taking it to the church* isn't for *public humiliation*, but is *broadening the circle* once again. Bringing in **All** friends now for again... *restoration purposes*.

E. Slide8d 4) TREAT HIM LIKE A PAGAN/TAX COLLECTOR (Mt.18:17b)

1. This means that you *treat him as* an *unbeliever*. *It doesn't say* that you are *judging* if the person is saved or not, you don't know.
2. So, *how do we treat unbelievers?* We seek their **salvation**. We are **kind** towards them. We show **love** towards them. They obviously shouldn't **serve** in the church.
3. It also hinders *true Fellowship* w/them.

VIII. Slide9a **THE 7 A'S OF CONFESSION** *Ken Sande, The Peacemaker*. [not a pharisaical checklist]

- A. **Address** – everyone involved. (keep the circle small).
- B. **Avoid** – words like *if, but, & maybe*. (don't minimize your sin)
- C. **Admit** – specifically sins. (greed, envy, jealousy, pride, selfishness).

- D. **Apologize** – express *sincere sorrow* for the way you affected them. (Feelings & actions)
- E. **Accept** – the consequences. (maybe restitution)
- F. **Alter** – your behavior. (present a plan, your changes. ask for input)
- G. **Ask** – for forgiveness. (at the appropriate time)
- H. **What if they won't forgive you?**
 1. Ask, **was your confession adequate? Have you followed through on your commitments? Allow time** (8 years once for me).

IX. Slide9b **THE 3 STEPS OF TRUE FORGIVENESS**

- A. **I will not** bring it up to **you again**. **I will not** bring it up to **others**. **I will not** stew/fixate on it **myself**.
- B. **Prayer**: Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow.