



The Biblical Principles Seminar

Introduction

1. The Nature of Conflict
2. The Hope and Impact of the Gospel
3. An Introduction to Biblical Peacemaking
4. The “4 G’s” of Peacemaking
 - a. Glorify God
 - b. Get the Log Out of Your Eye
 - c. Gently Restore
 - d. Go and Be Reconciled

Sample Pages from Participant Guide

Why Study Peacemaking?

- Conflict is all around us. It’s become the “air we breathe” in our society.
- Our sinful nature willingly co-operates with the world’s unswerving encouragement to “have it your way,” and when we want what we want... conflict results.
- Conflict affects our marriages, families, churches, neighborhoods and workplaces. It affects Christians and non-Christians alike, bringing us low, damaging our relationships, and tarnishing our witness to the world.
- But it doesn’t have to be this way. Through the gospel, where God reconciles a sinful people to himself, his people are given both a vision and a practical way to live in peace with one another.
- Peacemaking brings the prospect of hope for broken relationships and a powerful witness to a watching world.

Two Amazing Observations

As we dig into God’s Word on peacemaking, two areas of your life are going to be touched—one “past” and one “future”:

1. Past: Many (most?) people are currently in some unreconciled relationship, and God wants to work with you in that relationship.

Is that uncomfortable for you? For now, try to suspend your disbelief...

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2. Future: We lay down a new “cultural foundation” for the way we handle all the future disagreements (normal and natural) in our families, churches and workplaces.

From sinful and destructive to God-glorifying and constructive.

A Note on How We Learn

Studies suggest you will forget 87% of this seminar in 30 days. That’s depressing! Implication: If God is speaking to you and if you believe this is important, take the next step. We have many study resources for you, your family, your church, or your business to go deeper.

The Nature of Conflict

“The Spark”

“Triggers”: Where Does Conflict Come From?

- God-given diversity – Scripture celebrates unity, not uniformity (see 1 Cor. 12)
 - Which leads to natural differences in preferences and priorities
- Those inevitable misunderstandings
 - How perfectly do we communicate?
- Sinful attitudes and desires that lead to sinful words and actions
 - “Kids, be quiet! Can’t you see I’m tired?”

Key Idea:

We are different by design... God’s design!

Pause for Thought

What are some of the common areas of church or family life where disagreements tend to spring up? Why?

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“The Gasoline”

Why Do These Differences Become Conflicts?

The problem isn't the differences... it's what we do with the differences.

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from the desires that battle within you? You want something but you don't get it.” James 4:1

Definitions of an idol:

- Something you want too much (even a good thing)
- Something you will sin to obtain or sin if it's denied
- A desire that's become a demand

Some idol-revealing questions:

- How would you respond to disappointment or barriers related to this area?
- Have you ever “stretched” the truth in arguing for or against your desire?
- How are your opponents being treated in this area?

Pause for Thought: What are You Craving?

- 1) What are some of the things in your church or family life that can become idols?
- 2) Where have these sometimes lead to conflict?
- 3) Discuss and pray.

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