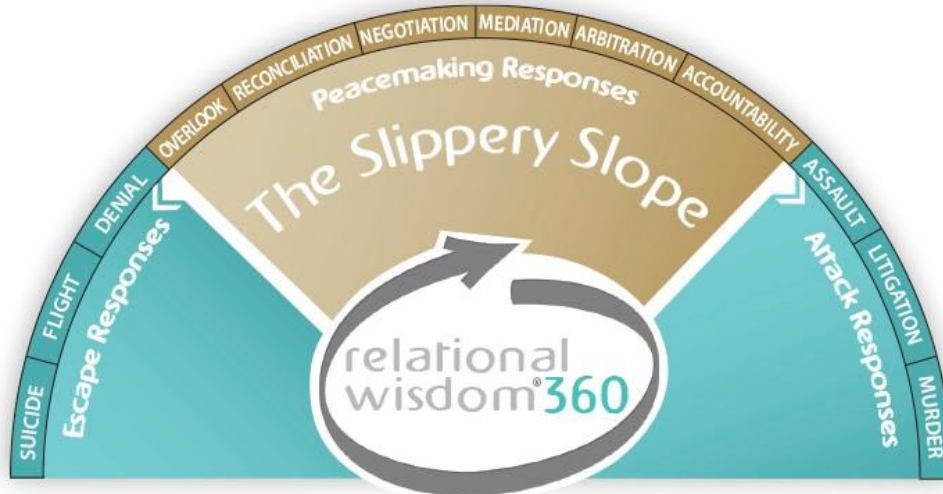


RESOLVING EVERYDAY CONFLICT

By Ken Sande

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace.

1. Conflict is a slippery slope



2. Scripture provides a practical theology for peacemaking (the 4Gs)

- Glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Get the log out of your eye (Matt. 7:3)
- Gently restore (Gal. 6:1)
- Go and be reconciled (Matt. 5:24)

Through the gospel, the foundational G, God provides both the model and motivation for peacemaking

3. Glorify God by using conflict as an opportunity to reflect his reconciling love

"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31; Ex. 34:5-8).

4. Get the log out of your eye.

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye (Matt. 7:3-5; cf. Prov. 28:13).

a. Conflict starts in the heart (James 4:1-2; Luke 10:38-42). The progression of an idol:

- I desire
- I demand
- I judge
- I punish

b. The Seven A's of Confession

Address everyone involved

Avoid if, but, and maybe

Admit specifically (behavior and desire)

Acknowledge the hurt

Accept the consequences

Alter your behavior

Ask for forgiveness (and Allow time)

5. Gently restore.

If someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently (Gal. 6:1).

- Overlook minor offenses (Prov. 19:11; 1 Pet. 4:8)
- Breathe grace and hope through the gospel (John 4:7-26; 1 Cor. 1:2-9; Col. 3:12)
- Keep it as private as possible, but involve others if needed (Matt. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).
- The **PAUSE** principle for negotiating material issues (or launching delicate discussions)
Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:4; cf. 1 Sam. 25:1-35; Esther 5:1-7:10; Daniel 1:8-16).

- **P** repare
- **A** ffirm relationships
- **U** nderstand interests
- **S** earch for creative solutions
- **E** valuate options objectively and reasonably

6. Go and be reconciled.

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Col. 3:12-14; cf. Matt. 18:21-35; 1 Cor. 13:5).

The Four Promises of Forgiveness

- I will not dwell on this incident.
- I will not bring this incident up and use it against you.
- I will not talk to others about this incident.
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

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