



Peacemaker or Peacefaker?, Part 1

January 13, 2019
THRIVE Groups

Quotable

All change comes from deepening your understanding of the salvation of Christ and living out of the changes that understanding creates in your heart. Faith in the gospel restructures our motivations, our self-understanding, our identity, our view of the world.
(Tim Keller)

Peacemaking is applying the gospel and God's principles for problem solving to everyday life.
(Ken Sande)

Peacefaking happens when I care more about the appearance of peace than the reality of peace.
(Ken Sande)

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God" (ESV Matthew 5:9).

Ice Breaker: What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?

Questions for Discussion

1. As you see a friend this week, she asks your group for a brief summary of Sunday's message. What you will tell her?
2. Why do you think there is so much unresolved conflict in our world today?
3. Why do you think there is so much unresolved conflict in the local and universal church today? How is it that believers have conflict like the world's?
4. Pastor Michael reminded us that unbelievers will not be attracted to the gospel if they see believers living as *peacefakers* instead of *peacemakers*. What will unbelievers think of Christian individuals and communities who are peacefakers or peacebreakers?
5. What did Pastor mean by the assertion that we cannot be *identified* as followers of God when we have contention in our lives?
6. Read the quote from Tim Keller in the left panel. How would you explain the truth of this quote to a new believer? How have you seen this truth affect behavior positively in your (or someone else's) life?

Pastor Michael provided three steps to resolve conflict biblically:

Step #1: REALIZE conflict is an opportunity, not an accident (1 Cor. 10:31-33).

7. Was there a time when you thought there should be no conflict among Christians? To what ends is conflict an opportunity?
8. In Matthew 5:9, Jesus says that peacemakers will be called "sons of God." Who will call peacemakers "sons of God"? Why will they call peacemakers "sons of God"? What effect will this title—"sons of God"—ideally have on the unbelieving world?

Step #2: SO don't run or retaliate (1 Sam. 2:22-25; 19:9-10; 31:4).

9. Please find the attached **PEACEMAKER Response Spectrum Health Card** that Pastor Michael used during the message. Discuss the differences among responses, especially at each end of the spectrum. In particular, how might each behavior manifest itself during conflicts?
10. If not the *PEACEMAKER Response* (in the middle), what is your typical response to conflict—escape or attack? In general, what bad results have you seen from both responses? What good results can you expect to enjoy by working toward peace?

Step #3: BUT confront the conflict with grace and move toward peace (Matt. 5:9).

11. Pastor pointed out that we are to approach conflicts with humility, gentleness, respect, and grace, which will most probably bring peace. In conflict, we need to ask ourselves: "What part in this conflict do I have?" Or, "What is my responsibility in this conflict?" What conflicts rear their heads in your current sphere? Based on this message, how might you best seek to resolve these conflicts?
12. Reflecting on #11, name a time when you or someone you know resolved a conflict properly—taking the path of humility, gentleness, and grace—with the result that both parties rejoiced in God.

