

# Restoration---Resolving Conflict

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

Jesus said, “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God”.

“The mouth of the righteous *is* a well of life, but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins. Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding,” Proverbs 10:11-13

Ken Sande, in his book *THE PEACEMAKER*, states, “Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then they bring His love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life. [But] when believers are bitterly embroiled in disagreement or coldly estranged from one another few people will pay attention when we try to talk with them about the reconciling love of Jesus Christ.”

Sande lays out principals that can guide us in resolving differences and conflict:

1. **GLORIFY GOD** (1 Cor. 10:31). Biblical peacemaking is motivated and guided by a deep desire to bring honor to God by revealing the reconciling love and power of Jesus Christ. As we draw on His grace, follow His example, and put His teaching into practice, we can find freedom from the impulsive, self-centered decisions that make conflict worse and bring praise to God by displaying the power of the Gospel in our lives.
2. **GET THE LOG OUT OF YOUR EYE** (Matt. 7:5). Attacking others only invites counterattacks. This is why Jesus teaches us to face up to our own contribution to a conflict before we focus on what others have done. When we overlook others’ minor offenses and honestly admit our own faults, our opponents will often respond in kind. As tensions decrease, the way may be opened for sincere discussion, negotiation, and reconciliation.
3. **GENTLY RESTORE** (Gal. 6:1) When others fail to see their contributions to a conflict, we sometimes need to graciously show them their fault. If they refuse to respond appropriately, Jesus calls us to involve respected friends, church leaders or other objective individuals who can help us encourage repentance and restore peace.

Sande adds: “Many disputes begin or grow worse because one or both sides give in to their emotions and say or do things they later regret. It is important to realize that if you do not glorify God when you are involved in a conflict, you will inevitably glorify someone or something else. By your actions you will show either that you have a big God or that you have a big self and big problems.

When displaying the riches of God’s love and pleasing Him is more important than holding onto worldly things and pleasing yourself, it becomes increasingly natural to respond to conflict graciously, wisely and with self-control. This approach brings glory to God and sets the stage for effective peacemaking.”

Jesus said, “I seek not to please myself but Him who sent me.” John 5:30

David said, “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

“Repay no one evil for evil...If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:17  
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**“And be kind to one another, **tenderhearted**, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Eph. 4:32**