

The Beatitudes Series
"Blessed Are the Peacemakers"
Dr Janet Cook, Senior Pastor
Sunday, May 28, 2017

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Angela Moisenko:

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

- Leave your gifts. Matthew 5:21-26
- Unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3
- Fruit of righteousness sown in peace James 3:13-18
- Moral Purity - Blessed are the Pure in Heart. Matthew 5:8
- Pursue peace. Hebrews 12:14
- The walls of separation were removed.
 - Galatians 3:28; James 2:1-10; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13;
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; Revelation 2:20; 1 Timothy 4:1-8;
 - 2 Timothy 2:15-18; Isaiah 48:22; 2 Corinthians 5:1-13, 6:9-11

Peacemaking must reflect God's rule and God's values.

Laura Manley:

Understanding and Removing Barriers to conflict Resolution

Ken Sande's Four primary causes of conflict:

1. Misunderstanding that results from poor communications.
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinion.
3. Competition over limited resources, such as time or money.
4. Sinful attitudes and habits that lead to sinful words and actions.

Sande, K. (2004). The Peacemaker, Baker Books, A Division of Baker Book House Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49516, pp. 30.

Ken Sande also wrote about the root cause of conflict being "...unmet desires in our hearts."

- "I Desire"
- "I Demand"
- "I Judge"
- "I Punish"

Sande, K. (2004). The Peacemaker, Baker Books, A Division of Baker Book House Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49516, summary pp. 102-108.

Marshall Shelley identified well-intentioned problem people as "dragons"

- "There is a spirit quick to vilify and slow to apologize."

Shelley, M. (1985). Well-Intentioned Dragons, Christianity Today, Inc., Bethany House Publishers, 11400 Hampshire Avenue South, Bloomington, Minnesota 55438, pp. 40, 112.

Sandra Crowe stated that "Fear is a root that holds difficult people fast in their world."

Crowe, S. (1999). Since Strangling Isn't An Option..., A Perigee Book, Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA, p. 58.

“So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell. But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil *and* full of deadly poison” James 3:5-6,8 (NASB).

Sandra Crowe said about barriers to resolution, “...assessments are the opinions we apply to our observations as they pass through our filters.”

Crowe, S. (1999). Since Strangling Isn't An Option..., A Perigee Book, Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA, p. 50.

Donna Bellafiore discussed the different styles people adopt in facing conflict, all of which are barriers to conflict resolution.

1. Avoid or deny the existence of conflict, resulting in the conflict lingering in the back ground, creating further tension and even more conflict.
2. Get mad and blame the other person, amplifying defensiveness
3. Use power and influence to win at the other's expense, with the loser continuing to harbor resentment
4. Manipulate the other person; perpetuating the conflict and compromising trust between them.

Bellafiore, D. (Unknown) “Interpersonal Conflict and Effective Communication,” DRB Alternatives, Inc., retrieved from <http://www.drbalternatives.com/articles/cc2.html>, summary para. 3.

Stephen Covey said, “To be offended is a choice you make. It's not done to you; you do it to yourself. You have within that space of decision the power to choose not to be offended. Others can't shame you; you can only shame yourself. You cannot control the behavior of others, but you can control your own response to it.”

Covey, S. (2011). The 3rd Alternative, Free Press, A Division of Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, p. 163.

Crowe emphasized the importance of conversations, focusing on the role of the “tongue” in conflict. She said “Everything that happens in our lives is the result of conversation.”

Crowe, S. (1999). Since Strangling Isn't An Option..., A Perigee Book, Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, USA, p. 68.

Basic Principles for peacemaking:

- Glorify God
- Gently restore
- Go and be reconciled.
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Sande stated, “Conflicts provide opportunities to glorify God, to serve others, and to grow to be like Christ: being faithful to God, being merciful to others, and acting justly ourselves.”

Sande, K. (2004). The Peacemaker, Baker Books, A Division of Baker Book House Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan 49516, pp. 38, 40.

“...first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye” Matthew 7:5 (NASB).

Cindy Granteer:

Overcoming Evil with Good - Romans 12:14-21

- Love your enemies, and do good to those who misuse you. Luke 6:27b
- Love is an Action. Romans 12:9-21
- Display sacrificial love. 12:9-16 – Let love be without hypocrisy.
- Display supernatural love. Romans 12:17-21 “Don’t fight fire with fire.”
- Love is not a feeling; it is an action.
- Manage your mouth. Romans 12:14; 1 Peter 3:9; 1 Corinthians 4:12-13

Angela Moisenko:

Christians Must Pursue Peace.

- Pursue peace. Romans 12:18
- Develop godly boundaries. Romans 14
- Practice blessing people and wishing them peace. John 14:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Be quick to listen to others. James 1:19-20
- React slowly. James 1:19-20
- Fix things fast. Proverbs 18:19; Matthew 5:23-26
- Be willing to yield on unimportant matters. James 3:18
- Do unto others... Luke 6:31