

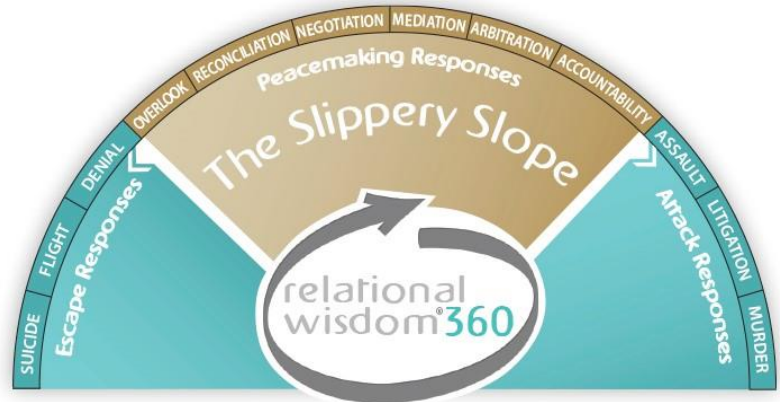
Relational Peacemaking™

Going beyond conflict resolution™

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt. 5:9).

1. Conflict is a slippery slope.

- Peace-faking (Escape)
- Peace-breaking (Attack)
- Peacemaking



2. Going beyond conflict: the primary goal of peacemaking is to reflect the reconciling power of Jesus and his gospel.

3. Relational peacemaking is three-dimensional, which requires us to be constantly God-aware, self-aware and other-aware (Eph. 4:30-32).

4. 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.

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

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

6. **Get the Log Out of Your Eye**

“You hypocrite, 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” (Matt. 7:3; cf. Prov. 28:13).

a. Conflict starts in the heart - The progression of an idol: I desire, I demand, I judge, I punish.

“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?” (James 4:1)

b. Confession brings freedom: **The Seven A's of Confession**

"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy" (Prov. 28:13).

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)

7. **Gently Restore**

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness (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).

8. **Go and be Reconciled**

a. Forgive as you've been forgiven: **The Four Promises of Forgiveness**

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you (Eph. 4:32; cf. Matt. 18:21-35; 1 Cor. 13:5).

- 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.

b. Interest-based negotiation: **The PAUSE principle**

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others (Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Sam. 25).

- Prepare (pray, get the facts, seek godly counsel, develop options)
- Affirm relationships (show genuine concern and respect for others)
- Understand interests (identify concerns, desires, needs, limitations or fears)
- Search for creative solutions (prayerful brainstorming)
- Evaluate options objectively and reasonably (evaluate, don't argue)

Suggested Reading and Training:

- [Free Downloads](#) ([RW App](#), [RW Blog](#), [Guiding People Through Conflict](#)).
- Four free courses on **RW for Unplanned Pregnancies** at rw360.org/carenet.
- Group studies and advanced training at www.rw-academy.org