

The Peacemaker's Pledge

As a person reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I believe that I am called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict (Matt. 5:9; Luke 6:27-36; Gal. 5:19-26). I also believe that conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, serve other people and grow to be like Christ (Rom. 8:28-29; 1 Cor. 10:31- 11:1; James 1:2-4). Therefore, in response to God's love and in reliance on his grace, I commit myself to respond to conflict according to the following principles.

Glorify God

Instead of focusing on my own desires or dwelling on what others may do, I will seek to please and honor God – by depending on his wisdom, power and love; by faithfully obeying his commands; and by seeking to maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude (Ps. 37:1-6; Mark 11:25; John 14:15 Rom. 12:17-21; 1 Cor. 10:31; Phil. 4:2-9; Col. 3:1-4; James 3:17-18; 4:1-3; Peter 2:12).

Getting the Log out of Your Own Eye

Instead of attacking others or dwelling on their wrongs, I will take responsibility for my own contribution to the conflict – confessing my sins, asking God to help me change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm I have caused (Prov. 28:13; Matt. 7:3-5; Luke 19:8; Col. 3:5-14; John 1:8-9).

Go and Show Your Brother His Fault

Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, I will choose to overlook minor offenses or I will talk back directly and graciously with those whose offenses seem to serious to overlook. When a conflict with another Christian cannot be resolved in private, I/we will ask others in the body of Christ to help me/us settle the matter in a biblical manner (Prov. 19:11; Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Gal. 6:1-2; Eph. 4:29; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; James 5:9).

Go and Be Reconciled

Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationship to wither, I will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation – forgiving others as God for Christ's sake, has forgiven me, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences (Matt. 5:23-24; 6:12; 7:12; Eph. 4:1-3, 32; Phil. 2:3-4).

By God's grace, I will apply these principles as a matter of stewardship, realizing that conflict is an assignment, not an accident. I will remember that success, in God's eyes, is not a matter of specific results but of faithful, dependent obedience. And I will pray that my service as a peacemaker brings praise to our Lord and leads others to know his infinite love (Matt. 25:14-21; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:18; 1 Peter 2:19; 4:19).