

Slide #1 : Our goal for Women's ministry at Westside Baptist: To help women experience the reality of relationship with Christ in daily life and connect with one another in meaningful relationships

When we stop and consider that only 2 Things are Eternal: God's Word and People, we come to understand the importance of applying God's Word to daily life and especially in our interactions with people. That is the foundation for experiencing the reality of relationship with Christ and connecting with one another in meaningful ways

As we will see, conflict is an inevitable reality of living in a broken, fallen world, and our goal is to help you embrace God's perspective of conflict and view it as He does. You see, what we typically rely on for guidance in situations involving conflict is our feelings or personal opinions about what is right (Sande, 2004). We all know that is not a reliable standard- only God's Word is that which never changes

You will be asked to examine your own heart and life and allow the Holy Spirit to shine the light of truth into areas that perhaps you didn't even realize were characterized by the dark shadows of wrong thinking with regard to conflict.

In Christian circles, we tend to view conflict as bad – we have the tendency to think that Christians should always agree- tend to think conflict damages relationships - Women, and especially Christian women, find conflict difficult-

Why is that?? I believe it is twofold:

1st, Conflict is uncomfortable; it is scary and often mismanaged in painful, abusive and destructive ways, which forms our conception of conflict as negative because it most often involves **strong negative emotions. As a result, we seek to avoid it at any cost.**

2nd, there is some confusion about the idea of conflict and our role as Christian women. How many of you have ever been told, "Just let it go to keep the peace?" That mindset coupled with passages that instruct us to love others as Christ has loved us, and the stipulations of love detailed in **1 Cor 13** (patient, kind, bear all things, believe all things, hope all things....), and passages like **Colossians 3:12** – *Clothe yourselves with humility, gentleness, and patience, bear with each other, forgive each other, whoever has complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you...put on love- it's the perfect bond of unity...*

Combined with passages like;

If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that "every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses." If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector" (Matthew 18:15-17). (This is the procedure for confronting a sinning brother, not someone whose behavior you feel needs modifying in some way or someone who merely irritates or annoys you.)

And especially Matthew 7:1 - **"Judge not, lest ye be judged"** (Matthew 7:1 KJV), which, when taken out of context, can be incorrectly justified to never taking a stand on anything that would require a judgment to be made- that is not the way of Jesus.

Are we beginning to see how the Satan casts seeds of doubt in this area?

So we are confused about whether to forgive and forbear or speak up and confront the situation. We may think Passivity, or keeping quiet is a fruit of the spirit – we might even call it submission! OR when do nothing in a situation out of fear, we may confuse that with submission or forbearance or gentleness.

Consider Queen Esther, who risked herself to bring about peace in a difficult situation – She did it with dignity and grace- If she'd been passive and done nothing, or aggressive, marching into the King's throne room demanding to be heard, the outcome would've been much different.

Some Assumptions:

- **Conflict is an inevitable reality in a fallen world but it is necessary** - - it is inevitable that there will be conflict between good and evil. This can and does happen within a family in which some are believers and others are not. We should seek to be at peace with all men but should never forget that Jesus warned we will be hated for His sake. Because those who reject Him hate Him, they will hate His followers as well ([John 15:18](#)). In [Matthew 10:34-36](#), Jesus said He had come at this time not to bring peace to the earth, but a sword, a weapon which divides and severs -
- **Conflict is a divinely ordained means of producing intimacy and growth. Consider that nothing in the created universe grows without conflict.**
- **Conflict is NOT Bad. Morally speaking, how we handle conflict determines it's characterization as good or bad.**
- **Conflict has the potential to damage relationships- but so does ignoring it**
- Not all conflict is neutral- God's truth must not be compromised just for the sake of peace
- **Conflict creates an opportunity for good discussion**

So we have 2 Goals for our time studying the Scripture:

Goal #1 is to identify how we typically address conflict and throw out what doesn't fit God's perspective – We need to see where we are to know where we're going.

Goal #2 is to embrace and walk in obedience to the Biblical principles that relate to how we are to handle conflict; that you'd embrace your responsibility in the call to be Peace Makers. Walking in obedience to this call will help you experience the reality of relationship with Christ each day.

To achieve that, we want to view **Conflict from a Biblical Perspective** – what that perspective reveals is that:

- **Conflict provides an opportunity to glorify God**
- **Conflicts provides an opportunity to serve others**
- **Conflict provides an opportunity to grow to be like Christ (Sande, 2004, pp. 31-37)**

Can we do this together? Can we allow ourselves to be open to God doing a new thing in us? [Philippians 2](#) calls us to have the mind of Christ – to let that dwell in us. In this passage we see that Jesus - God Incarnate- emptied Himself and Humbled Himself. THAT is the posture of one who is a true Peace Maker.

Slide #2 -

Working Definition of Conflict: A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires- (Sande, 2004, p. 29).

This is a broad definition and intentionally so because it can include differences in tastes (mountains vs beach) or hostile arguments (fights, quarrels, lawsuits, church divisions)

Primary causes of conflicts:

1. Misunderstandings, poor communication
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, callings, priorities, expectations, interests, opinions, personalities
Miriam disapproved of Moses' decision to marry a Cushite woman (which led her to engage in sinful behavior as she stirred up conflict within the camp (Numbers 12)
What about holidays and family expectations? These can lead to quarrels and arguments
What about how to spend time, money/resources? (Can lead to competition, jealousy, can divide)
3. Sinful attitudes and habits that lead to sinful words and actions – James 4:1-2 **HEART** issues
*Selfishness: demanding what we want without consideration for what others want- always demanding our way!
Jealousy – Saul and David relationship change after David became successful warrior
***KEY** – It isn't selfish to want something or ask for what you want(good discussion can surround such a request)- it is selfish when you want what you want without considering how your 'want' affects others – when you refuse to consider their needs in the matter
4. Being sinned against – When someone does something to us that is painful- something that breaks relationship/damages the relationship

Infidelity, betrayal on any level: lies, gossip, pornography, sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse

Points 1-4 reference material from (Sande, 2004), and (Vernick, n.d.)

- Misunderstandings, poor communication (**creates an opportunity for good discussion**)
- Differences in values, goals, gifts, callings, priorities, expectations, interests, opinions, personalities (**creates an opportunity for good discussion; opportunity to glorify God since we are all image bearers; opportunity to serve others/assist them in reaching their goals, use their gifting, walk out their calling; opportunity to grow to be like Christ as we learn from our differences and seek to be all He made us to be without demanding others be like us**)

Some offenses are too serious to overlook and we must avoid the temptation to escape or attack! Keeping silent may seem like its keeping peace, but that does not result in true peace- that is simply being a peace keeper-

Slide #4 - Typical responses to conflict

Peace Keeper

Escape Responses

~easy

~non-threatening

Peace Breaker

Attack Responses

~blame

~expect you to give in to solve the problem

~convenient

FOCUS = ME

FOCUS = YOU

See the two extremes – Fight or Flight

Flight = conflict avoidance methods – they may deny the conflict exists OR refuse to do what needs to be done- In either case, this provides only temporary relief bc the conflict still exists

These often makes matters worse and the conflict can intensify. This is especially true if the other person has no idea there is a problem- Their actions just keep throwing straw on an ever growing stack that one day breaks the camel's back.

NOW – let's not be confused here – A peace making response can be to overlook an offense – some disputes are so insignificant that they can be overlook- this is a form of forgivingness that is characterized by “a deliberate decision not to talk about it, dwell on it, or let it grow into a root of bitterness and pent up anger.”(Sande, 2004, p. 25).

Let me also add that this Peace Keeper response is involved in our inability to say no! Some of us do not know how to say no because we fear.....we fear that we will lose that person's approval/acceptance – we fear they will stop asking us or stop needing us- and there is this fine line in there somewhere between being one who loves to help and lift another's burden AND taking on things that keep us busy and needed in ways God has not designed for us.

Oh ladies! This is why we need to know who we are in Christ, know how He has uniquely gifted us to serve in His Kingdom through the local church and surrounding community- because what happens is that we often say yes to things because we do not know why we should say no- we fear being rejected or criticized= that's conflict (that a difference of opinion – a difference in calling – our saying no may frustrate the other person's goals or desires – CONFLICT!) so we say yes because it's non-threatening- its easy – its convenient!

Live loved before your Audience of ONE – Your Heavenly Father- the Creator and Lover of your Soul – the One Who calls you to walk in freedom in the Power of His Word and by the Power of His Spirit! KNOW what you know! Know what He has called you to!

If we are not sure of what God requires of us, we will, like a chameleon, change our color to fit in with our surrounding.

Let's be honest with ourselves in this area. The difference between being a Peace Maker and a Peace Keeper is that Peace Keepers bend to others, and disregard their own thoughts and feelings just to keep peace; to preserve a relationship no matter how superficial. Let's recognize our tendency to avoid conflict out of fear of rejection and ridicule, which can cause us to bend to unhealthy and unnatural positions and damage the person God has made us to be.

He made us to be God-centered first and foremost, not others-centered first and foremost. Yes, He made us **for** relationship (with friends, with family, with a spouse), but He made us to receive our strength and nourishment from Him; to see our value through His eyes- through Christ's Gospel. When we have a healthy view of ourselves from God's perspective, THEN, we won't be so easily ruffled when people do not value us or disregard us. This frees us to be who God made us to be!

Slide #5

Peace Maker

Focus = US : You, Me & God

~God's interest is paramount

~The interests of both sides are important

~There is mutual responsibility

Now let's look at your responsibility to be a Peace Maker if you are a believer – What I want us to see is that the reward for being a Peace Maker is that we will be called sons of God- Why is that a big deal?

Slide #5 – Peace Maker

Matthew 5:9 – *Blessed are the Peace Makers, for they shall be called the sons of God.*

“Blessed (makarios/GR. 3107) means spiritually prosperous, independent of one's circumstances. So Jesus is saying blessed, happy, satisfied, fulfilled, spiritually prosperous are the ones who work for and do the things that make for peace. Notice Jesus advocates an active and not passive involvement in the process ("makers" but not "shakers"). Taken from https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_59

One commentator said it this way: “*The way of the Lord's peacemaker is not a weak-kneed approach, but is the way of Spirit given courage (interwoven with the spirit of meekness or power under control, Matthew 5:5 [note]), which is counter to the world's usual methods (frequently strife, discord, bickering, wars, rumors of wars, etc) of bringing about change.*” https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_59

The Word *peacemakers* (1518) in Matthew 5:9 indicates one who makes peace, not war. *Peace, (Eirene)* signifies parties holding differences of opinion who are willing to turn toward each other and embrace one another in spite of their differences. https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_59

Now it is important to stop right here and make this point: In any relationship- no matter the level of intimacy, ***Humility moves us toward one another; Pride pushes us away from one another.***

Stay with me, because this is essential to seeing our responsibility to be characterized as Peace Makers!

Eirene is derived from the verb *eiro* which means *to bind or join together that which is broken or divided*. The idea is to set at one again. So we can expand the definition of "peacemaker" as ***those who facilitate the binding together those who were divided, thus setting them at one.*** Jesus is referring to those who actively intervene to bind together those that are divided. By making peace, kingdom citizens manifest themselves as sons of God. https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_59

The Beatitudes refer principally to the exercises of the heart and relate to conduct- they are reflective of character – the character of those who belong to the Kingdom of Heaven

What is the blessed result of being a Peace Maker = *they shall be called sons of God*

The Hebrew idea of son is not that of male, but refers to a descendant, one who reflects the **character** of another – have any of you ever said- “You act just like your _____ fill in the blank”

When you embrace and fulfill your calling to be a peace maker, joining and bringing together that which is divided, you are partaking in the nature of your Heavenly Father, the God of Peace, and His Son, the Prince of Peace, Do you know how God is glorified? When we reflect His **character**-

*Jesus, The Prince of Peace, died on Calvary to make atonement for your sin and mine and brought harmony to mankind's relationship with God. When we proclaim the Gospel to others, we are entering the **Ministry of Reconciliation** - we are being peacemakers. The ministry of reconciliation involves the proclamation of the gospel and its assurance that forgiveness of sin is available in Christ.*

Tie this together in your thinking with verses like; “You are not your own, you were bought with a price” and “If any man wish to come after Me, he must first deny himself, take up his cross and follow me.” “Put off the old and put on the new” https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_59

A Peace Maker sees Conflict as an opportunity. Perhaps in few other settings does the opportunity lend itself to glorifying God than in bringing together that which is divided. Oh, it sounds grand and we have high aspirations for living to glorify God, but this is where the rubber meets the road – This is where we must deny ourselves and take up our cross – this requires humility and it requires wisdom – we will look at those aspects next week and we will look at some biblical guidelines for when to speak up, what to do, etc.

Let me leave you with this. Ken Sande suggests believers see conflict as a management opportunity. He ties it to the biblical concept of stewardship. He notes that when Jesus talked about managing something, “he was usually referring to a servant who had been entrusted by his master with certain resources and responsibilities” (Sande, 2004, p. 38). Stewardship, he relates, has everything to do with being entrusted to follow the master's instructions and look out for his interests, not his own interests, pleasure or convenience.

Be a good steward of the opportunities God gives you to be a peace maker – to glorify Him, grow in your relationship with Him and serve others – We are not our own, we have been bought with a price- Walk by the Spirit so that you do not gratify the flesh – greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend – not by shrinking back in fear, but in the power of love led by the Holy Spirit to bring about health and peace

Blessed(spiritually prosperous)are the Peace Makers- they reflect the character of God- they shall be called the sons of God.

Week 2 - March 31, 2019

Slide #1 - Opening slide – Blessed are the Peacemakers

Slide #2 - Let's refresh our memory from last week. Recall with me the typical responses to conflict- the 2 extremes: *Peace Keepers* are those whose goal is the easy, convenient, non-threatening way of dealing with conflict- the focus in this approach is “me.” I don't want to cause problems by speaking up or by having an opinion or because my feelings are different or have been hurt by the situation. The tendency, then, is to deny their own thoughts or feelings just to keep peace and maintain the relationship.

On the other side is the *Peace Breaker* – this response places the blame for the conflict on *you*- they expect *you* to give in – *You* are the one with the problem! The focus of a Peace Breaker is YOU. We can see how such an approach is divisive! These people are more interested in winning the conflict than preserving the relationship. They see conflict as a contest or a chance to assert their rights, or control others. The idea is to bring about as much pressure as possible so as to eliminate their opposition.

Attack responses are often verbal in nature to include gossip and slander, but can be physical as well. Peace Breakers expect people to bend to their will and often use litigation to enforce it- they take people to court.

However, there is a 3rd, God-honoring response = Peace Making

Peace Making is the pursuit of real peace (shalom) at the risk of conflict – Withdrawing from conflict gives an illusion of peace, its keeping quiet to preserve the pretending of peace/the aura of peace- That is NOT genuine, heart felt peace

Last week we also looked at things that cause conflict and why we as Christian Women typically take the Peace Keeping Approach – Let's recall our working definition

Slide #3 Recall our working definition of conflict = *A difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires AND* the biblical perspective of conflict:

Ex – as a young mom my goal was to get up early to have uninterrupted time in the Word and some coffee – when my goal was frustrated by someone getting up earlier than normal and interrupting my time, conflict resulted – I am here to tell you my 1st response was not “how can I glorify God, serve you and grow to be like Christ”- work with me here – but I did have a choice in my response – you have a choice in how you respond. What about driving – I leave the house later than I should have if i am to be on time- then all the other people on the road who have all the time in the world to spare get in front of me – they do not have the memo that they are supposed to clear the road for me ! these people are frustrating my goals – my desire to be on time.

I often frustrated Pete's desire /goal to be on time early in our marriage. I had a choice to make – was I gonna be a Peace Breaker and expect him to just get use to it? He could've been a Peace Keeper and act is if it was ok when it really wasn't. Instead, he confronted me and we discussed his perspective on why its important to be on time – it shows respect, it's a reflection of character and so on

James 4:1-2 conveys:

“What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?”

Can you see how my response to conflict in both instances could've been all about me? I wanted what I wanted without thinking of anyone else – that's the epitome of selfishness

- **Conflict provides an opportunity to glorify God** – we glorify God when we obey His Word- when we love as He has loved, forgive as He has forgiven, serve Him from a heart of gratitude, exercise self-denial- think of others’ needs before our own- total surrender- Luke 9:23, Phil 2
- **Conflicts provides an opportunity to serve others-** You are most like Jesus when you’re serving others. After washing his disciples’ feet, Jesus said, *“If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”* (John 13:14–15 NASB) This passage relates to forgiveness- forgive one another and serve each other sacrificially
- **Conflict provides an opportunity to grow to be like Christ-** We will park here for a while and pull together a number of passages that detail the things that a growing believer does.

(3 bullet points above are recap- taken from Sande, 2004, pp. 31-37)

Those are somewhat benign examples I gave, but you have been in conflicts and so have I in which the 2 sides are so much more convoluted with layers of unresolved issues – If you have a family in which years of hurt feelings and unresolved conflict exists, oh, may God use you to be a peace maker!

If you are to be a Peace Maker, you cannot rely on worldly wisdom, personal opinion or feelings. You need wisdom. –

The book of James is a very practical book that focuses on godly behavior and wise living- He is passionate for believers live in uncompromising obedience to the Word. He is forthright in his assertion that faith is evidenced by conduct- belief drives behavior and as a result, he goes into great detail to describe how one whose faith is alive and real is to conduct him/herself. A faith that is alive and real, he maintains, is manifested by how one behaves - and he begins his letter talking about faith in the midst of trials.

Read **James 1:2-4**

Verse 5 begins....BUT if you do not have joy, do not know how testing of your faith produces endurance and is to result in perfection and completion, ask God-

Operate from the perspective that you do not know everything God is doing- what might God be doing through this conflict in your life, in the other person’s life- and knowing that He causes all things to work together for good to those called to His purposes, and for His glory, how might you come alongside? How might you aid in your personal growth – by recognizing you aren’t there yet –

Hmmmm- sounds like pride versus humility – In all things, God is working to grow up your faith and your character so that with increasing measure you look more and more like His Son !

ABCs of Spiritual Growth = Adversity builds Character (unknown source)

All things are for your sakes (2 Corinthians 4:14) **Recall that the beatitudes are concerned with character-**

James 3:13 - James asks the question: Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.”

We’re still focusing on character- outward manifestations of our faith – so you may think yourself wise and understanding or even claim yourself so, but wisdom that is from above – godly wisdom is proven through good conduct

Go back to what we typically rely on as guidance in conflict? Feelings or personal opinion- A Peace Maker seeks godly wisdom – wisdom from above

Wisdom from above - Godly wisdom- is 1st pure (free from contamination or defilement) and that through which all the characteristics of wisdom flow (Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God)

Peaceable = peace promoting or as NIV states, peace-loving

Gentle = considerate, forbearing (**Phil 4:5**) – able to patiently take it when treated unjustly; able to leave the matter in God's hands **Galatians 6:1-5 – Colossians 3:12 – 15**

Reasonable, or submissive = being persuaded and willing to yield when it is wrong – WOW

Full of mercy – doesn't look down their nose at one who is hurting because of poor choices or foolishness, but is willing to help

Full of good fruits = acts in compassion and meets the needs of others-**James 3:18, Galatians 5:22-24**

Unwavering = impartial- it bends when it needs to but knows when it must not- Knows the essentials and refuses to waiver on them.

Without hypocrisy – sincere (NIV)- no pretension- doesn't try to be what it isn't Godly wisdom is peace loving- it does not perpetrate or perpetuate conflict, but peace!

<http://www.bethanybible.org/biblestudy/2003/073003am.htm>

TRUE wisdom brings men closer to one another and to God – True wisdom is full of mercy and good fruit

Galatians 6: 1-5 – “Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of **gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. Bear **one another's** burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another. For each one will bear his own load.”

Colossians 3:12 – 17 – “Clothe yourselves with humility, gentleness, and patience, bear with each other, forgive each other, whoever has complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you...put on love- it's the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another....Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” ...”

EXAMINE YOURSELF – We are professional critics of others. James warns us how deadly the tongue is – he tells us it is a world of iniquity- we speak against our brother/sister –we judge our brothers and sisters and in so doing, we speak against the law and judge the law (**James 4:11**)

In **5:9, James** warns us not to complain against one another- Therefore, before we move to speak up in the midst of conflict, we must not make one step until we have examined ourselves - “*Before you talk to others about their faults, Jesus wants you to face up to yours*” (Sande, 2004, p. 79).

Matthew 7:1 - "Judge not, lest ye be judged" (Matthew 7:1 KJV),

Matthew 7:3-5 – “ Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

So often, we impute motives and pretend to read hearts- do not be guilty of judging others or scrutinizing others as if you are judge and jury – God alone knows all the details- He alone is omniscient
Get the log out of your own eye – see yourself aright – hold your motives and heart before the mirror of God’s Word – the same magnifying glass that you would use to judge others, use to judge yourself – and that’s a full time job!!!!

Closely related to the teaching of **Matthew 5:9** is **James 3:18** – *“And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”*

The fruit of wisdom is righteousness- righteousness is sown in peace- what is sowing? It’s the choices we make – righteousness cannot flourish when things are not right between man to man

William Barclay relates: “The seeds which bring the rich harvest can never flourish in any atmosphere other than one of right relationships between man to man...”

The “seed” here is godly wisdom. This passage is set in the context of James’ explaining by way of contrast, of 2 types of wisdom: worldly wisdom and godly wisdom. Remember - the Book of James is a treatise on behavior(what we do –conduct - and what we say) that evidences true faith. Now I will tell you that I have been rebuked over and over in studying for this series because, we can say all day long that we love God and we believe His Word, but unless our behavior is reflective of that, James is clear, our faith is meaningless.

James 1:8 and **James 4:8** – only places the word Double-minded man use – it means= gives assent in one area and contradicts it in another – he is unsure in his faith –

“Unstable,” comes from a Greek word meaning “unsteady, wavering, in both his character and feelings.”

The fruit of wisdom is righteousness- righteousness is sown in peace- what is sowing? It’s the choices we make – righteousness cannot flourish when things are not right between man to man

Before you confront – practical

- A. Start with prayer – seek God – pray for wisdom
 - B. Examine yourself
 - C. Seek godly counsel –
 - D. Choose the right time and place –Esther did this well
 - E. Say it in person
 - F. Plan your words
 - G. Watch your tone of voice and body language – Words are only 7% of what is HEARD- our tone and body language comprise the rest
 - H. Make it factual, truthful, and loving, and gracious – seek the good of the other – seek restoration
- references for points A-H were taken from (Vernick, n.d.).

James 1:5 really comes alive here. We need wisdom and James entreats those of us who lack wisdom to ask God for it because He gives to all generously and without reproach.

Posture of a Peace Maker = Humility

1. Is willing to listen (**James 1:19-20**) -
 - a. Sees from other’s point of view – seek their perspective (**Phil 2**)

- b. Listens carefully – quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to become angry(**James 1:19, 26**)
 - c. Doesn't attack – restore in spirit of gentleness – (**Galatians 6:1-5**) remember, we are different and will think differently – opportunity for good exchange – serve others, glorify God, grown in self control
 - 2. Speak the truth in love – restore in gentleness (**Galatians 6:1-5**) if need to speak up, do so with the right attitude – remember the log in your own eye – remember we can be deceived
 - 3. Our job is to pursue peace (**Romans 12**)
 - 4. Trust Christ with the outcome
- References for points 1-4 were taken from(Vernick, n.d.)

Jesus' greatest mission was reconciliation- but it requires a response from us – recognize that we may not always get the response we want

So, **when** DO we speak up? The following provides GUIDELINES to help focus our prayers. Ask yourself:

- A. Is the matter dishonoring to God? (**Romans 2**)- is what's happening in the relationship or in other's life dishonoring God or their testimony? What type things dishonor God and your testimony? Gossip- immorality – not giving your all at work – language.....
 - B. Is the matter hurting them? (**Galatians 6**)Are they on the edge of a cliff, so to speak?
 - C. Is the issue hurting our relationship (**Matthew 5, 18**) - If something in the relationship isn't getting resolved and we're hurt and we've tried to forgive and tried to forbear and it still isn't getting resolved, we need to be willing to be Peace Makers- we need to pursue peace by talking with them about it. – You see, the relationship is broken when we pretend everything is fine-
- References for pints 1-C were taken from (Vernick, n.d.)

Goal – Restoration of relationship – God's glory

Selfishness: “When we demand what we want without consideration for what others want.”

References

Sande, Ken, *The Peace Maker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Baker Books: Grand Rapids, 2004.

Vernick, Leslie. (nd). *A Woman's Guide to Handling Conflict* [Video Presentation]. CCOU 304, Liberty University, Spring 2017.

Online Resources:

<http://www.bethanybible.org/biblestudy/2003/073003am.htm>

https://www.preceptaustin.org/galatians_6_commentary-barber

https://www.preceptaustin.org/matthew_59

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