

PEACE  
MAKING

PEACE

MAKING

PEACE  
MAKING

PEACE MAKING

PUBLISHED BY JIM PROBST

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

First edition completed April, 2008

Authors: Jim Probst

Concepts and additional quotes from "The Peace Maker" by Ken Sande

Copyright 1991, 1997, 2004

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New American Standard Bible, Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995

by The Lockman Foundation

P E A C E   M A K I N G

SESSION ■ 01 ————— NO.6

Opportunistic Conflicts

SESSION ■ 02 ————— NO.10

Living at Peace with Others

SESSION ■ 03 ————— NO.14

Removing the Log

SESSION ■ 04 ————— NO.18

Gentle Restoration

SESSION ■ 05 ————— NO.22

Forgiven to Forgiveness

SESSION ■ 06 ————— NO.26

In the Interest of Others

SESSION ■ 07 ————— NO.30

Church Discipline

BIBLIOGRAPHY ————— NO.35



# WELCOME TO PEACE MAKING

I am so glad you have decided to take this step in your Christ-following journey.

It is my desire to equip people toward maturity in Christ. Yet, every time people come together, there is an opportunity for conflict that can hinder our unity and love for one another. This resource will help you develop healthy expectations and responses to the inevitable conflicts in our community.

Together we will study and discuss Biblical encouragements and admonishments in the realm of interpersonal and church conflict.

This resource is designed specifically for small groups and one-on-one meetings. It's for people who are interested in establishing and maintaining peace among the body of Christ, both universally and locally.

Each lesson and question is designed to provide a springboard for group discussions and individual reflections. Write down your thoughts as you go through your lesson each week and most importantly, be prepared to discuss why you think the way you do. Doing your homework is essential to getting the most out of this resource.

IN CHRIST,  
JIM PROBST

# GROUP CONTACT INFORMATION



NAME:

PHONE #:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

MEETING DATE, TIME & LOCATION:

---

# OPPORTUNISTIC CONFLICTS

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 1

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."

**ROMANS 12:17-18**

### KEY QUOTE:

"As you worry less about going through conflict and focus more on growing through conflict, you will enhance that process and experience the incomparable blessing of being conformed to the likeness of Christ."

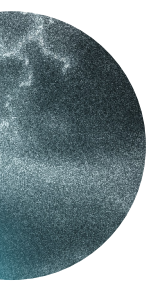
**KEN SANDE,**  
**"THE PEACEMAKER"**

### THE BIG IDEA

Let's face it, most of us are not excited about conflict. In fact, most of us would rather avoid the topic and the conflict itself at all costs. Yet, we know that God uses these "opportunities" for our maturation and His glorification. Throughout these seven sessions we will look at God's Word to determine our response to interpersonal and church conflict. Furthermore, many of the concepts contained in this study are derived from Ken Sande's book "The PEACE MAKER."

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Open this time of study by having someone lead in prayer.
2. Does the word "conflict" conjure up positive or negative thoughts in your mind? Explain.
3. In his book "The PEACEMAKER," Ken Sande defines conflict as "a difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires."
4. Share an example of a difficult "church/interpersonal conflict" that you have been a part of or have been aware of in the past. (note: be careful not to slander or gossip - this is for illustrative purposes only)
5. In your experience, do these conflicts typically lead to greater health or greater problems? What can be learned from this?



6. Does spiritual growth of an individual typically occur apart from Christian community and conflict? Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and James 1:2-4.
7. Read the “key quote” to the left of this page and discuss your thoughts regarding the accuracy of this statement.
8. There are four great questions Sande mentions that we can use to evaluate our “Christ-like” response to conflict.
  - How can I please and honor God in this situation?
  - How can I show Jesus’ work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?
  - How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?
  - How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?
9. On your own, evaluate your response to a recent conflict by asking the four questions noted above. Did this help you to clarify your motives and expectation for a “Christ-like” response? Explain.
10. In every conflict you face, God is actively accomplishing one or more of the following:
  - A. Working On You
  - B. Working Through You
  - C. Preparing You for Future Work
11. Additionally, in every conflict, you have the opportunity to do one or more of the following: (read and discuss the following concepts and corresponding Scriptures)
  - A. Trust God (Proverbs 3:5-7)
  - B. Obey God (1 Samuel 15:22)
  - C. Imitate God (Ephesians 5:1-2)
  - D. Testify to God (1 Peter 3:13-16)





## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 1

## MY BEST RESPONSE

Read Isaiah 45:7. How well do you recognize that the Lord is the one who brings both prosperity and disaster? In light of this, how committed are you to His supreme goal of being “conformed to the likeness of His Son” (see Romans 8:28-29)? Prayerfully consider your answers.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

In the “Notes” section of the next page, write down a summary of where you are now and what you have learned regarding conflict in the church.

## NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# HOMework

Work diligently this week to see every conflict as an opportunity for God's glorification and your maturation. Document the "opportunities" and your responses as they come.

[illegible]

# LIVING AT PEACE WITH OTHERS

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 2

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called sons of  
God.”

#### MATTHEW 5:9

“So then we pursue the things  
which make for peace and the  
building up of one another.”

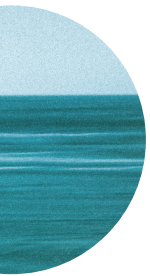
#### ROMANS 14:19

### THE BIG IDEA

“Living at peace with one another is critical for those who wish to “be imitators of God” (Ephesians 5:1). In this study, we will learn how the God of Peace uses His children to live in peace and offer peace to others. As with the other sessions of this booklet, “living at peace with others” is a countercultural concept. Let’s get into God’s Word to learn more about this important element of living out our faith.

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Open this time of study by having someone open in prayer.
2. Romans 12:18 reads, “If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.” Two things are to be noted in this verse:
  - There is the call for us to “be at peace with all...,”
  - The call is preceded with the phrase “If possible.”What do you think Paul meant when he wrote this?
3. Take a moment and share an example (without sharing names) of a time when it wasn’t possible to be at peace with someone.
4. Why do you think peace is such a high priority for God’s people? Explain.
5. One of the many titles of our King is “the God of peace.” Read Rom. 15:33; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9; Heb. 13:20; Judg. 6:24 for examples.
6. Peace is what God gives to His own. Read Numbers 6:24-26; Psalms 29:11; Proverbs 16:7; Galatians 6:16.
7. God calls us to seek and pursue peace. Read Psalms



34:14; Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 7:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:13.

8. God describes His covenant between He and His people as one of peace. Read Numbers 25:12; Isaiah 54:10; Malachi 2:5.
9. Galatians 5:22-23 reminds us that one of the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit is peace. In essence, God offers us peace with ourselves when we are found to be “in Christ.” Take a moment to describe the reality of the “peace that surpasses understanding” that you experience in Christ (Philippians 4:7).
10. God also offers peace with one another through the redemptive work of His Son Jesus Christ. In fact, notice the necessity of unity among believers for the sake of those who do not know Christ (John 17:20-23). Peace is implied when there is unity. Peace is epitomized in Ephesians 2:11-18. Please read this passage together and discuss the emphasis of this passage.
11. A common bumper sticker reads, “No Jesus, No Peace ... Know Jesus, Know Peace.” This trite saying emphasizes an important truth. Only through Christ can we have peace with God. Read Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23. Have one of the more mature believers in the group, or in your circle of trusted friends, describe the consequences and solution to our “sin problem.”
12. Read Colossians 1:19-20 and Romans 5:1-2 to better understand Christ’s redemptive work for us.
13. Close in prayer, thanking God for His gift of our Savior.

## KEY QUOTE:

“The Apostles understood the importance of peacemaking, and they realized that Satan will do all he can to promote conflict. The depth of their concern is revealed by the fact that every Epistle in the New Testament contains a command to live at peace with one another.”

**KEN SANDE FROM HIS BOOK “THE PEACEMAKER”**

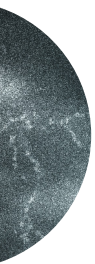


## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 2

Have you made “every effort to live at peace” with those around you? Prayerfully consider the people in your life who might require some additional “effort” as you pursue peace with others.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

In the “Notes” section of the next page, write down a summary of where you are now and what you have learned regarding “Living at Peace with Others.”





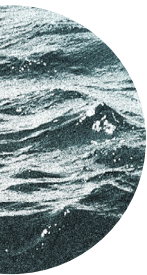
# REMOVING THE LOG

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 3

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye’, and behold, the log is in your own 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.”

**MATTHEW 7:3-5**



### THE BIG IDEA

People tend to error on two extremes when it comes to holding people accountable. On one side there is a tendency to ask, “Who am I to judge ...?” and back away from helping the brother in need. On the other side, many choose to be critical and judgmental without ever noticing the sin in their own lives. This chapter speaks to the need for a balanced and healthy approach when confronting others.

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Take a moment to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
2. Read the “Key Scripture” reference to the left of this page.. Then, share the common application and interpretation of this passage.
3. In reference to Matthew 7:3-5, Sande writes “If you read it carefully, however, you will see that it does not forbid loving correction. Rather, it forbids premature and improper correction.”
4. According to this passage, we can avoid improper and premature correction in what ways? Give examples.
5. Read Proverbs 19:11 and Psalms 103:8-10. From these passages, we can see that there are times when it is best to overlook an offense. Give an example and discuss.

6. In his book PEACEMAKERS, Sande writes  
“Overlooking is not a passive process in which you simply remain silent for the moment but file away the offense for later use against someone ... Instead, overlooking is an active process that is inspired by God’s mercy through the gospel.”
7. There are times when we shouldn’t overlook the offense, when it is important to “remove the speck” in your brother’s eye. Describe any situations where this might be true.
8. As we remember from the previous session, it is critical to “live at peace with one another.” If the offense has erected a wall between people, it is necessary to lovingly confront the person. Why might this be true?
9. If the person’s actions are becoming a stumbling block for others or discrediting the renown of the Lord, there is also a need to seek correction. Has there been a time in your life where someone has corrected you in this way? Explain.
10. Read James 4:1 and Proverbs 28:13 and discuss the importance of “removing your own log” first before pursuing someone else’s “speck.”
11. Read 1 Timothy 1:15 and consider committing this verse to memory. Why would understanding this verse help us to “remove our log” before confronting another?
12. Why is it important to have people around you who will be willing to take the “log out of your eye?” What will be necessary components of that relationship in order for this to happen?
13. Close in prayer for one another.

## KEY QUOTE:

“I believe in getting into hot water. I think it keeps you clean.”

**G. K. CHESTERTON**



## REMOVING THE LOG

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 3

## MY BEST RESPONSE

Do you have a regular exercise of “self examination” that is part of your spiritual disciplines?

If not, consider establishing a new “discipline” in your life. If so, how committed are you to the practice of examining your heart before, during, and after challenging another brother or sister in Christ?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

In the “Notes” section of the next page, write down a summary of where you are now and what you have learned regarding what it means to “remove the log.”

[illegible][illegible]

# GENTLE RESTORATION

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 4

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.”

**GALATIANS 6:1**

### KEY CONCEPT:

When you are trying to show someone his /her fault, make every effort to keep the remarks as objective as possible!

### THE BIG IDEA

Restoration is a difficult process for all involved. It is important to listen well and act carefully when approaching another for the sake of restoration. The following study gives some great scriptural examples of how to successfully navigate these difficult issues, as well as some clear warnings of what not to do! It might be helpful to review the previous week's lesson before proceeding.

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Start the meeting by praying for one another and asking God to open your eyes and hearts to His Word as it is proclaimed.
2. People tend to fall into one of two camps: conflict resolution and conflict avoidance. Which one most accurately describes your response to conflict in the past?
3. Read Matthew 18:15-18.
4. Notice the context of the passage that you just read. In the passage that precedes Matthew 18:15-18, we see the parable of the lost sheep (Matthew 18:12-14). In this passage, the theme is one of restoration, not condemnation. Does this help to clarify the intent of Matthew 18:15-18? Explain.
5. Read Ephesians 4:29 from a variety of translations. How might this verse imply the need for “gentle



restoration?” Explain.

6. Read 1 Corinthians 1:2-9 to see how the Apostle Paul gently approached the various sins of the church in Corinth. Do you feel that this could be a model for interpersonal conflict resolution as well?
7. Read the “Key Quote” to the right of this page. Discuss.
8. Often times, we assume too much and speak too quickly. Read the following passages that remind us to listen and speak carefully. James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13; Proverbs 12:18.
9. Develop a brief parody of how NOT to attempt to restore someone. Then discuss the ideal approach.
10. Again, the Apostle Paul models this well in Colossians. Sande writes, “in the midst of admonishing the Colossians, Paul injects this marvelous clause: ‘Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience’ ... Before telling them something more than they should do, Paul reminds them of who they are in Christ.”
11. Have you ever been the recipient of such a careful and Biblical correction? If so, take a moment to thank the Lord for this healthy example and the servant who brought this to you.
12. Looking back to Matthew 18:15-18, it is important to make every effort to keep the circle of people involved and informed as small as possible for as long as possible. Read the passage again and discuss the implications.
13. Have you ever been a witness to a formal “church discipline” situation? Was the circle kept small? What subtle ways do we justify enlarging the circle?
14. Close in prayer.

## KEY QUOTE:

“When writing the Ephesians, Paul devoted the first half of his letter to a detailed description of God’s redemptive plan. When he finally got around to addressing errors in the congregation, his readers were already standing on a foundation of hope and encouragement.”

**KEN SANDE,**  
**“THE PEACEMAKER”**

# REMOVING THE LOG

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 4

### MY BEST RESPONSE

Read Ephesians and Colossians this week. Look at the great effort that Paul took to encourage and restore gently. Do you have the same tendencies? Evaluate your overall methodology of approaching others in their areas of weakness or sin.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

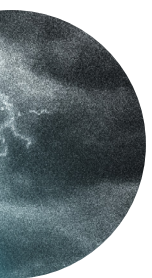
---

---

---

---

In the “Notes” section of the next page, write down a summary of where you are now and what you have learned regarding “gentle restoration” in the church.





# HOMework

[illegible]

# FORGIVEN TO FORGIVENESS

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 5

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, who ever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”

**COLOSSIANS 3:13**

### KEY WORD STUDY:

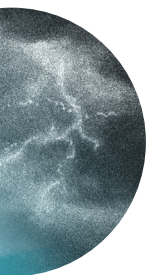
“Aphiemi” is the Greek word often translated as “forgive” in English. “Charizomai” is another Greek word for “forgive.” The first means to let go, release, or remit - often referring to debts. The second means to bestow favor freely or unconditionally.

### THE BIG IDEA

The Lord’s Prayer is something that most of us have been saying since our youth. When was the last time you reflected on the phrase, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...?” When you stop to think about it, this can be a very condemning request! In this session we will consider all that the Lord has done for us and how that should be a great motivator for us to forgive others as well.

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Begin the study by praying for one another.
2. Take a moment to review some of the highlights from previous sessions.
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a permanent attitude.” Do you agree? Why?
4. Read the “Key Word Study” to the left of this page. Read Matthew 6:12; Matthew 18:27,32 to see the use of the word “Aphiemi” in context. Understanding this word helps us to see that forgiveness costs something.
5. Read Luke 7:42-43; 2 Corinthians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:32; Col 3:13. These verses use the word “Charizomai” in context. This Greek word indicates that such forgiveness is undeserved and cannot be earned. Why is that significant to a Christian? Explain.





6. We have discussed what forgiveness is in the previous questions. Let's take a look at what forgiveness is not.
- Forgiveness is not a feeling.
  - Forgiveness is not forgetting the offense.
  - Forgiveness is not justifying the offense.
7. Forgiveness is an active process that involves a conscious choice and an intentional course of action. Read Isaiah 43:25. He is not saying He CANNOT remember our sins, but that He WILL NOT remember them.

## KEY QUOTES:

"Reconciliation requires that you give a repentant person an opportunity to demonstrate repentance and regain your trust."

**KEN SANDE,**  
**"THE PEACEMAKER"**

8. In order for us to be Christ-like in our response to people, should we expect to forget the offense or simply choose to "not remember" them? Is this significant?
9. Read and discuss the following passages regarding God's attitude toward our sins: Jeremiah 31:34; Isaiah 43:25; Psalms 103:12; Psalms 130:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:5.
10. While extending forgiveness is important, it is also important to know WHEN TO FORGIVE.
- Ideally, repentance should precede forgiveness (Luke 17:3).
  - The offended should have an ATTITUDE of forgiveness regardless of repentance.
  - If the offender is repentant, then the offended should GRANT forgiveness.
- How have both the attitude and granting of forgiveness been modeled by God toward us? See Luke 23:34 and Acts 2:36-41.
11. Does forgiveness suggest that there are no more consequences of the sin? Explain.
12. Read Matthew 18:21-35.
13. Take a moment to think of the things that God has forgiven you for. In light of this, how have you modeled forgiveness toward others? Explain.
14. Pray for one another and thank God for His unfailing love and forgiveness.

# FORGIVEN TO FORGIVENESS

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 5

## MY BEST RESPONSE

Do you offer forgiveness or receive forgiveness more often? What might this say about you?

[illegible]

In the “Notes” section of the next page, write down a summary of where you are now and what you have learned regarding “forgiveness” from God and to others.

## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Take time to read Matthew 18:21-35 from at least 2 different versions this week. Prayerfully study this passage and ask the Lord to reveal truth to you.

[illegible]

# IN THE INTEREST OF OTHERS

## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 6

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

**PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4**

### KEY QUOTE:

“The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth. It is obvious that man is himself a traveler; that the purpose of this world is not “to have and to hold” but “to give and to serve.”

**WILFRED T. GRENFELL**

### THE BIG IDEA

Conflicts often present unique opportunities to serve others. In this session we will look at the ways in which conflicts provide us with great opportunities to build up one another in Christ, while also seeing the opportunities to be “growth agents” for ourselves as well.

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Open your time of discussion with prayer.
2. Come up with at least 7 examples of selfishness in our culture today.
3. In what ways do the influences of our culture permeate the church? How have you seen this displayed in previous church experiences?
4. In our world today, we think of resources in a “zero-sum” or “competitive” capacity rather than a “cooperative” capacity. The thought is often, “If my neighbor improves his life, it is somehow detrimental to me.” “Keeping up with the Joneses” seems more important than serving them. Do you agree?
5. Take a moment to read the following “countercultural” verses: Matthew 22:39; 1 Corinthians 13:5; Matthew 7:12; Matthew 5:43-48.
6. In what ways do you agree with the “key quote” on this page?
7. It is critical that believers make a great effort to elevate relationships above rights. From time to time, your rights may allow you to hinder relationships for



personal gain. When these two clash, seek to place a greater value on relationships. How have you seen this expressed in your life? Explain.

8. Romans 12:17 tells us to “Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.” This is a very

difficult task! It often involves sacrificing your own agenda or “rights” in order to be “right” with others. Notice how this is modeled in David’s life as you read 1 Samuel 24:1-22. What did David give up? What did he gain? Explain.

9. When was the last time you intentionally gave up your rights in order to be “right” with others? Explain.
10. In what ways did Jesus look to the interest of others rather than to His own interests during His ministry on earth? Explain.
11. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Note that one of the prominent metaphors to describe the church is “the body of Christ.” How are we to serve one another?
12. Note the “key quote” to the right of this page. Do you agree with this?
13. As you close in prayer at the end of this session, seek to pray only for those around you and not yourself. Have you been attentive enough to know how to pray for them? What does this tell you?

## KEY THOUGHT:

Becoming a Christian is an individual sport. Being a Christian is a team sport... always. The Christian life was never meant to be lived in solitude.



## PEACE MAKING - SESSION 6

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Consider establishing one day this month where you clear your schedule of any personal duties. Instead, ask those around you how you can help them with their “to do” lists.

[illegible]

### KEY SCRIPTURE:

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.”

**JAMES 3:17-18**

### KEY THOUGHT:

There is a vast difference between keeping peace and making peace. Both are important, but making peace is proactive in the pursuit of health for the individual and the church.

### THE BIG IDEA

Have you considered that God wants to use you to help establish a culture of peace in your church? We have seen, through the previous chapters, the importance of “peacemaking” and the high calling for the “peacemakers.” In this session we will take a more practical look at how to cultivate a culture of peace through “church discipline.”

### A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

1. Open the discussion with a word of prayer for God to be glorified through the peacemaking efforts of your church members.
2. Two of the most successful sitcoms of all time were “Cheers” and “Friends.” Think of the atmosphere around the bar (Cheers) and the coffee shop (Friends). What was attractive about these settings?
3. Would you agree that the church seems to be missing the element of vulnerability and transparency as a whole? What would it look like if people could truly let down their guard and be ministered unto within the walls of the church? Could appropriate church discipline improve the likelihood of such an atmosphere? Explain.
4. Read Matthew 18:15-18. Does the idea of “church discipline” initially seem negative or positive? Explain.
5. Read Hebrews 12:5-11. What can be said about the importance of “discipline” from the Lord? List several things.
6. The Matthew 18 Process Step by Step (for more detail, see chapter 7-9 of “The PEACE MAKER”

by Ken Sande. Successive steps are only necessary if the conflict is not resolved

- **STEP 1: Overlook Minor Offenses**
    - surrender your rights for the sake of the relationship whenever possible
    - don't overlook the offense when:
      - someone has something against you
      - someone's sins are:
        - dishonoring God
        - damaging your relationship
        - hurting others
        - hurting the offender
  - **STEP 2: Talk in Private**
    - consider the "log in your own eye" first
    - Initiate the conversation eventually face to face and possibly first
  - **STEP 3: Take One or Two Others Along**
    - Others might act as mediators or arbitrators
    - Mutual agreement on "others" is preferred, but not required these others also act as witnesses in the event of a lack of reconciliation
  - **STEP 4: Tell it to the Church (Accountability)**
    - Not broadcasting it to the church without order
    - Leadership of the church determines appropriate action to take
  - **STEP 5: Treat Him as a Nonbeliever (church discipline)**
    - This is a functional decision rather than a judgment on salvation
    - Membership privileges may be withdrawn
      - Prevents the Lord from being dishonored by a member of the body
      - Other believers are protected from negative examples
      - This may help the offender to realize the significance of the problem
  - Evangelistic efforts may be initiated
7. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Nothing is so cruel as the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin." Do you agree?
8. Close in prayer asking God to protect his "Bride."

## KEY THOUGHT:

"The church is called not only to a ministry of reconciliation, but a ministry of nurture to those within her gates. Part of that nurture includes church discipline ..."

**R.C. SPROUL**



## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Work diligently this week to see how your church approaches the important task of church discipline. How might you support your leaders in this way? What role does membership play in this process?

[illegible]

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Adams, Jay. *Handbook on Church Discipline*. Zondervan, 1986.

Cosgrove, Charles. *Church Conflict: The Hidden Systems Behind the Fights*. Abingdon, 1994.

Dobson, Ed, Speed Leas, and Marshall Shelley. *Mastering Conflict and Controversy*. Multnomah Press, 1992.

Everist, Norma Cook. *Church Conflict: From Contention to Collaboration*. Abingdon, 2004.

Leadershipjournal.net (<http://www.christianitytoday.com>) See the following articles:

“The Leadership Opportunity” by the Editors

“Animal Instincts” by Charles Stone

“When Things Get Ugly” by Gordon MacDonald

“Creative Tensions” by Ed Young

“The Good Fight” by Mark Buchanan

Leeman, Jonathan. *The Church and the Surprising Offense of God’s Love*. Crossway Books, 2010.

Poirier, Alfred. *The Peacemaking Pastor*. Baker Books, 2006.

Sande, Ken. *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*. Baker, 2004 reprint.

Sande, Ken. *Peacemaking for Families*. Tyndale, 2002.

Shelley, Marshall (Editor). *Leading Your Church Through Conflict and Reconciliation*. Bethany House Publishers, 1997.

Shawchuck, Norman. *How to Manage Conflict in the Church, Spiritual Growth Resources*, 1983.

Van Yperen, Jim. *Making Peace*. Moody Press, 2002.

White, John and Ron Blue. *Healing the Wounded: The Costly Love of Church Discipline*. IVP, 1985.



## NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

## NOTES

[illegible]

## NOTES

[illegible]

## NOTES

[illegible]

