

TEN RULES FOR RESPECT

- **If you have a problem with me, come to me** (privately).
- **If I have a problem with you, I'll come to you** (privately).
- **If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me.** (I'll do the same for you.)
- **If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to together. I am sure he/she will see us about this."** (I will do the same for you.)
- **Be careful how you interpret me—I'd rather do that.** On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy to misinterpret intentions.
- **I will be careful how I interpret you.**
- **If it's confidential, don't tell.** If you or anyone comes to me in confidence, I won't tell unless (a) the person is going to harm himself/herself, (b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, (c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.
- **I do not read unsigned letters or notes.**
- **I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you.** Do not let others try to manipulate me *through* you.
- **When in doubt, just say it.** The only dumb questions are those that don't get asked. We are a family here and we care about each other, so if you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer it without misrepresenting something or breaking a confidence, I will.

By Charles W. Christian. Reprinted from Leadership Journal, Summer 1999, page 55.

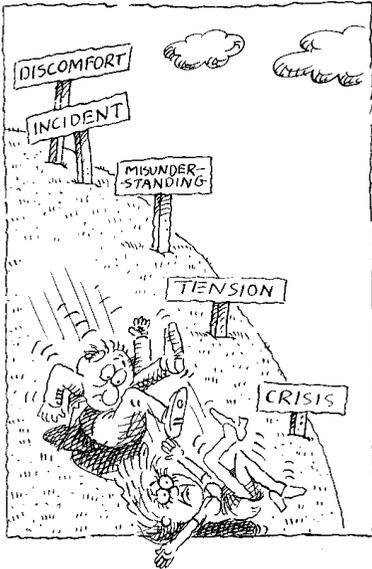


Biblical Conflict Resolution

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God

THE PEACEMAKER'S PLEDGE

A Commitment to Biblical Conflict Resolution



As people reconciled to God by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we believe that we are called to respond to conflict in a way that is remarkably different from the way the world deals with conflict. We also believe that conflict provides opportunities to glorify God, serve other people, and grow to be like Christ. Therefore, in response to God's love and in reliance on His grace, we commit ourselves to respond to conflict according to the following principles:

Glorify God — Instead of focusing on our own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will seek to please and honour 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. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Get the log out of your own eye — Instead of attacking others or dwelling on their wrongs, we will take responsibility for our own contribution to conflicts—confessing

our sins, asking God to help us change any attitudes and habits that lead to conflict, and seeking to repair any harm we have caused. (Matthew 7:1-5)

Go and show your brother his fault — Instead of pretending that conflict doesn't exist or talking about others behind their backs, we will choose to overlook minor offences, or we will talk directly and graciously with those whose offences seem too serious to overlook. When a conflict with another Christian cannot be resolved in private, we will ask others in the body of Christ to help us settle the matter in a biblical manner. (Matthew 18:15-20)

Go and be reconciled — Instead of accepting premature compromise or allowing relationships to wither, we will actively pursue genuine peace and reconciliation—forgiving others as God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven us, and seeking just and mutually beneficial solutions to our differences. (Ephesians 2:11-18; 2 Corinthians 5:16-19)

By God's grace, we will apply these principles as a matter of stewardship, realizing that conflict is an opportunity, not an accident. We will remember that success, in God's eyes, is not a matter of specific results but of faithful, dependent obedience. And we will pray that our service as peacemakers brings praise to our Lord and leads others to know His infinite love. (Matthew 5:9)