

How do you know when you've fully obeyed Paul's command, "If at all possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."? (*Romans 12:18*)

If you need some help answering this question, here's a checklist ...

1. On a scale of 1-to-10, how much do you want what the Lord wants namely peaceful, flourishing relationships that honor God and the people involved?
2. On a scale of 1-to-10, how much do you want a peaceful, flourishing relationship, if at all possible, with the person with whom you are in conflict?
3. Have you identified your legitimate interests? Do you know the other person's legitimate interests? Would you be able to paraphrase those interests in a way that the other person would say, "Yes, you get it"?
4. Has there been any sinful expression or protection of legitimate interests in this conflict, either from you or the other person? If you're guilty of this, have you owned up to the dishonoring nature of your words and actions, and acknowledged full responsibility for impact it had on the people involved?
5. In this, have you modeled for the other person the acknowledgement you would like to see from him or her in this conflict? Have you graciously described the impact of the other person's unhealthy words and actions upon you? What was that person's response?
6. Are you moving toward forgiving the other person who has sinned against you in this conflict and created losses in your life (of any size or magnitude?) Have you identified, valued, and fully grieved those losses?
7. Have considered multiple solutions that address the legitimate you interests of everyone involved?
8. Have you made a wise decision in regard to increasing or decreasing your vulnerability to this person, based on his or her willingness to follow these steps? How would you describe the healthiest level of reconciliation with this person?
9. When you give an account to God about the circumstances surrounding this conflict, will He say to you something along the lines of "I was pleased with the way you handled that situation"

If you can answer "yes" to questions 3-10, then you have fully followed the biblical command "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (*Romans 12:18*)

If you're stuck at any of the steps above, seek godly counsel on how to remove the obstacles that may be hindering your progress.

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

"I thought I tried everything and it didn't work. Now what?"

We believe in the outrageous love and justice of God in conflict, but peacemaking doesn't always result in immediate breakthroughs. We want to learn from Jesus how to react differently and break the vicious cycle—even in the heat of conflict. As we wrap up our Peace with Others Series, we look at boundary enforcement and responding to conflict with the love of Jesus.

Romans 12:20-21, 1 Samuel 24:1-22, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

- Where conflict comes from (Spark/Gasoline/Fire)
- We often want things too much (desires become demands), and so we fight and quarrel (James 4).
- The Slippery Slope—our natural tendencies to escape and attack
- The Gospel: It changes everything!

Review: In dealing well with conflict there are four "G"s

1. **GLORIFY GOD—1 Corinthians 10:31** *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

How can I please and honor God in this situation?

- Understanding the Slippery Slope
- Glory of God is a Human fully alive.

2. **GET THE LOG OUT OF YOUR EYE—Matthew 7:5** *You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from the other person's eye.*

How can I show Jesus' work in me by taking responsibility for my contribution to this conflict?

- Start with your own contribution to a conflict
- Rooting out idols (going beyond the superficial and getting to the heart)
- A good confession (The Seven "A"s)

3. GENTLY RESTORE—*Galatians 6:1* *Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.*

How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?

- Go talk to them (privately); Get help

4. GO AND BE RECONCILED—*Matthew 5:24* *leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to that person; then come and offer your gift.*

How can I demonstrate the forgiveness of God and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?

- Giving and receiving of forgiveness
- Heart vs. Transactional forgiveness
- The Four Promises of Forgiveness

OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD

"I did everything and it didn't work. Now what?"

IT DOESN'T COMPLETELY DEPEND ON YOU

JESUS CALLS US TO ANOTHER WAY WITH ANOTHER POWER - THE POWER UNDER

REVIEW: FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. Control your Tongue

2. Seek Godly Advisors

3. Keep doing what is right

4. Recognize Your Limits

- The Big Temptation - Taking matters into your own hands

5. Use the Ultimate Weapon

NEXT STEPS