

PEACEMAKER – Confession

Peacemakers Tell the Truth

Pastor Michael Vuorensivu - June 5, 2022

Restoring relationships involves telling others what we believe we are responsible for when it comes to conflict. Confession brings healing and genuine peace but only when it is done well.

The Gospel shows us how important reconciliation is to God. He inspires us to do everything we can to repair any harm we have caused to others and enter into a process which involves four activities: repentance, self-examination, confession, and personal change.

Colossians 3:1-10

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

A PEACEMAKER **DESPISES THEIR EARTHLY NATURE (verse 5)**

2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. 25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

REPENTANCE is not just feeling sad or uncomfortable. Nor is it just an apology - to repent means to change the way we think. It involves a realization that we have been deceiving ourselves and that our ideas, attitudes, goals and values have been wrong. If this change is genuine, then it will lead us to renouncing our sin and turning to God.

A PEACEMAKER **STUDIES THE OLD SELF (verse 7-8)**

Self-examination is healthy - otherwise how would you know to deal with sin in your life that you don't know you have? The Holy Spirit has been given to us to help us expose these things within us that we need to rid ourselves of.

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There are many **Biblical programs** that can help us deal with deep hurts and issues where we sense we need to really unpack a hurtful past --

Celebrate Recovery - <https://www.celebraterecovery.ca/british-columbia/>

Freedom Session - <https://freedomsession.com/>

I encourage you to seek these out if you feel like there is stuff locked up inside of you that needs to be let out.

Psalm 32:3-5

3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32 describes the guilty conscience, the emotional turmoil, and even the physical side effects David experienced until he confessed his sins to God. AND MAYBE THIS IS YOU?

1 Corinthians 13:9-12

9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

R. C. Sproul writes "All authority is under Christ. When we disobey lesser authorities, we are guilty of disobeying Christ. You cannot serve the King and honor his authority by rebelling against his appointed governors. To say you honor the kingdom of Christ while you disobey his authority structure is to be guilty not only of hypocrisy but of cosmic treason."

A PEACEMAKER IS BEING RE-NEW-ED IN KNOWLEDGE (verse 9&10)

God's True knowledge brings about a holy awareness of what is being put off and away and what is being put on - this is the way to eternal life -- this is the Kingdom of God on this earth...walking in the Spirit and learning to love others with a devotion that says - I love God and I love myself and by the power of the Holy Spirit I love others.

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

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Ken Sande in the Book “The Peacemaker” has given us a tremendous tool for genuine confession

THE SEVEN A’S OF GENUINE CONFESSION

1. **Address Everyone Involved** - Confessions should reach as far as your offense.

Luke 19:8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

When sin has been performed in front of people, then people need to be included in the confession...Confession in the NT was often held publicly ---

Acts 19:18 Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.

2. **Avoid If, But, and Maybe** - These words diminish and dilute what is communicated.
3. **Admit Your Specific Role in the Conflict** - The more detailed and specific you are when making a confession, the more likely you are to receive a positive response. For example,

Luke 15:21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven (God) and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son’

4. **Acknowledge the Hurt** - If you want someone to respond well to your confession, make it a point to acknowledge and express sorrow for how you have hurt or affected them.
5. **Accept the Consequences** - the harder you work to make restitution, the easier it will be for others to believe your confession and be reconciled to you.
6. **Alter Your Behavior** - As both the Prodigal and Zacchaeus have shown us - true restoration can only come from real change. If you want someone to believe that your understanding has changed then you need to explain how you will change your life in the future...and then of course ask God to help you to stick to the change you have promised to make.
7. **Ask for Forgiveness** (and allow time) - if you do the other steps then you make a way for restoration in the relationship.

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WARNING: If no forgiveness is given or it is delayed by the other person - check and ensure that you followed all of these steps. Probe Sensitive! Ask God for more information...

CHILDREN OF GOD ARE CALLED TO **PEACE**

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

PEACEMAKER CHALLENGE QUESTIONS:

The Slippery Slope found in the book called “The Peacemaker” by Ken Sande - <https://rw360.org/product/the-peacemaker-a-biblical-guide-to-resolving-personal-conflict-paperback/> - Diagram - <https://www.reliancefellowship.org/conflict-styles-slippy-slope/>

1. Read Ephesians 4:22-31. What parallels do you see between this passage of scripture and Colossians 3:1-15?
2. The Seven A's of Confession provide a thorough and effective process for deep relational connection in the midst of a dispute.
Of the seven A's - which one do you find easiest?
Of the seven A's - which one do you find easiest?
3. Is there someone that you need to go and make a confession to that you have been avoiding? During your next devotional time with the Lord, ask Him to help you see clearly what ways you contributed to the issue between the person you have been avoiding and discuss this confession with a close friend. Ask them for their feedback and help to make sure it is as comprehensive as possible.
4. Pray for one another as you reflect on what has been shared