



# **DEACONS BECOMING PEACEMAKERS**

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# UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT

## and our Responses To It

- What is Conflict?
- It is a **difference** of opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.
- An expressed struggle, perception of incompatible goals.
  - Con = "together" flict = to strike or  
"TO STRIKE TOGETHER."



# UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT CON'T

- What causes Conflict?

1. Misunderstandings (Acts 15:22-29)
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interest, or opinions (1 Cor. 12:12-31)
3. Competition over limited resources
4. Sinful attitudes and desires, that lead to sinful words and actions.



# God Provides The Perfect Way To Deal With Conflict

<sup>1</sup>And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask? <sup>2</sup>Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.

Romans 12:1-2 NLT

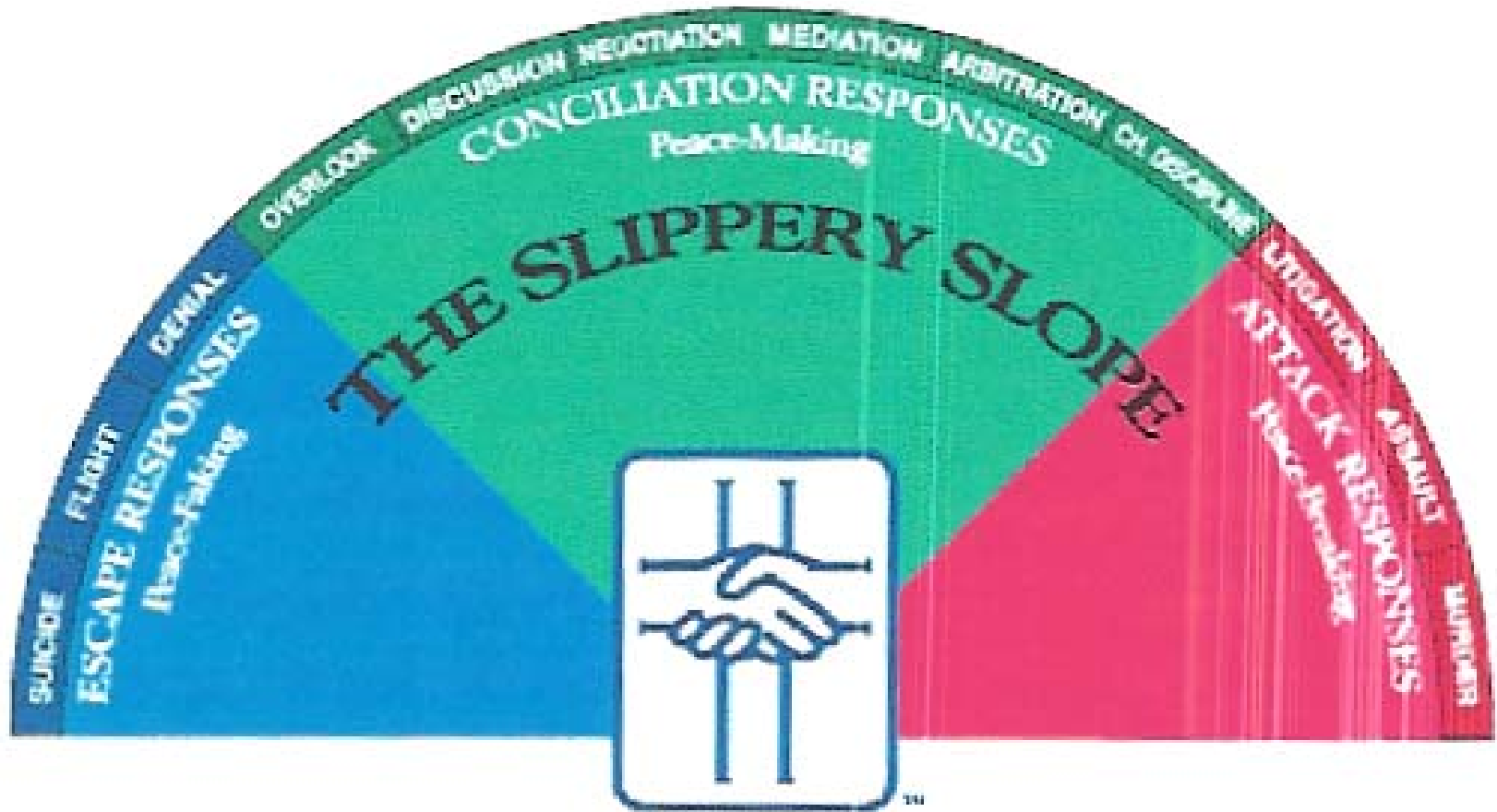


# THE FOUR G'S GUIDES US IN WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO

- Glorify God
- Get the log out of your eye
- Go show your brother his fault
- Go and be reconciled



# A Spectrum of Responses



From [www.peacemakerministries.org](http://www.peacemakerministries.org) Billings Montana



**CONFLICT  
PROVIDES  
OPPORTUNITY**



# Opportunity #1

- TO GLORIFY GOD
  1. Trusting Him (Psalm 37:5-6)
  2. Obeying Him (John 14:15)
  3. Imitating Him (Eph. 5:1-2)
- ***“Watch the kind of people God brings around you and you will be humiliated to find out that this is His way of revealing to you the kind of person you have been to Him.”***



# Opportunity #2

- Serve other People
  1. Help to carry their burdens (Gal. 6:2, 10)
  2. Help them to change through constructive confrontation. (Gal. 6:1)
  3. Teach and encourage other by your example (1Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:7)



# Opportunity #3

- **Grow to be like Christ**
  - 1. Conflict helps us to remember our need for God (2 Cor. 12:7-10)**
  - 2. Conflict helps to uncover sinful attitudes (Psalm 119:67, 71)**
  - 3. Conflict helps us to remember who we are (Romans 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-29)**
  - 4. Conflict provides opportunity for us to put off our “old self,” through**



***PEACEMAKING  
IS NOT AN  
OPTION WITH  
GOD***



# THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE

1. Peace with GOD (Col. 1:19-20)
2. Peace with OTHERS (Rom. 12:18)
3. Peace with YOURSELF (Isa. 32:17)



**INNER PEACE IS  
A BY-PRODUCT  
OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**Matt. 22:39**



# Jesus' Reputation Depends On Unity

1. Jesus' Final Prayer (John 17:20-23)
- 2. Peace and Unity are so important that He commands us to seek reconciliation with others even ahead of worship. ( Matt. 5:23-24**



**Make every effort  
and**

**STRIVE  
EARNESTLY  
FOR PEACE**



# INSTEAD OF LAWSUITS

- CHRISTIANS SHOULD RESOLVE  
(1 COR. 6:1-8)
  - 3 NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF  
LITIGATION
    - BAD WITNESS
  - IT IGNORES THE PROBLEM
    - NO RECONCILIATION



***PEACEMAKING  
IS NOT AN  
OPTION FOR  
DEACONS***

***MATT. 5:9***



## *Glorify God*

*“Instead of focusing on your own desires or dwelling on what others may do, we will seek to please and honor God – by depending on His wisdom, power, and love; by faithfully obeying His commandments; and by seeking to maintain a loving, merciful, and forgiving attitude.”*



FOLLOW UP  
SEMINARS ON  
“BECOMING A  
PEACEMAKER”



# GET THE LOG OUT

- IS IT REALLY WORTH FIGHTING OVER?
- EXAMINE ONESELF



# GO AND SHOW YOUR BROTHER HIS FAULT

- WHEN AND HOW SHOULD YOU CONFRONT SOMEONE
- WHEN AND HOW SHOULD YOU INVOLVE OTHER PEOPLE
- DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE
- REMEMBER TO FORGIVE AS YOU HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN



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Ministry*

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