

Peace FAKER, Peace BREAKER, or PEACEMAKER?

Animals instinctively to know what to do when faced with danger.

When facing a predator, the hunted must know whether to FIGHT or FLEE.

Some animals have almost no defenses other than speed to get away (rabbits, squirrel)

Some animals FAKE an attack to scare away their opponent.

When faced with conflict, we usually FIGHT or FLEE. Our adrenaline kicks in

We focus our survival instincts on GETTING AWAY or GETTING EVEN.

Today, we want to review what the Bible teaches about the various ways we can respond to conflict. This is our final message in the series, "Living in Harmony." I am using a chart from the book "The Peacemaker." It's the best chart I have seen that reviews the ways, both obedient and disorient ways, that God's people respond to conflict. I will also give BIBLICAL ILLUSTRATIONS for each of these responses.

James 3:18 *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

1. Peace Faking
 - a. Denial. ABSALOM.
 - i. 2 Samuel 13:1-2. Amnon falls in love with his half-sister, Tamar
 - ii. Amnon is the son of David and Ahinoam
 - iii. Tamar and Absalom belonged to David and his wife Maacah
 - iv. Amnon rapes Tamar. 2 Sam 13:11-15
 - v. Absalom keeps his anger suppressed, waiting for revenge. 2 Sam 13:21-23
 - vi. 2 YEARS LATER, Absalom orders the death of Amnon!
 - vii. King DAVID Suppresses his conflict with Absalom!! 2 Sam 13:37-39
 - b. Flight. JACOB flees from Esau because of Esau's rage. Genesis 27:42-45
 - c. Suicide. ELIJAH. Because of Jezebel! 1 Kings 19:1-5
2. Peace Breaking
 - a. Assault. DAVID.
 - i. 1 Samuel 25 (do not turn there)
 - ii. Just after Samuel's death
 - iii. David is insulted because of the fool, Nabal
 - iv. David's response? GO AND ATTACK NABAL
 - v. All that was hurt was David's HONOR.
 - vi. He responds as a young fool
 - vii. Proverbs 14:17 *A quick-tempered man does foolish things, and a crafty*

man is hated.

- viii. Proverbs 14:29 *A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.*
- ix. Proverbs 29:11 NAS *A fool always loses his temper, But a wise man holds it back.*

b. Litigation. The CORINTHIANS. 1 Cor 6:1

c. Murder. CAIN. 1 John 3:12 *“Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous.”*

3. Peacemaking.

James 3:18 *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.*

Matthew 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

a. Overlook

- i. Proverbs 20:3 *It is to a man’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel.*
- ii. Proverbs 19:11 *A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.*
- iii. Joseph. Years later, “Genesis 50:19–20 *But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

b. Reconciliation. Matt 5:21-24

c. Negotiation. “A mutually agreed upon third party or method.”

- i. When the two in the dispute attempt to work things out themselves.
- ii. Proverbs 18:17–19 *The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him. 18 Casting the lot settles disputes and keeps strong opponents apart. 19 An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.*

d. Mediation. Intervention counseling is a form of mediation.

- i. The Jerusalem Counsel.
- ii. Acts 15:1-5

e. Arbitration. OT PRIESTS

- i. Deuteronomy 17:8–13 *If cases come before your courts that are too difficult for you to judge—whether bloodshed, lawsuits or assaults—take them to the place the LORD your God will choose. 9 Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict. 10 You must act according to the*

decisions they give you at the place the LORD will choose. Be careful to do everything they direct you to do. 11 Act according to the law they teach you and the decisions they give you. Do not turn aside from what they tell you, to the right or to the left. 12 The man who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God must be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel. 13 All the people will hear and be afraid, and will not be contemptuous again.

- f. Accountability.
 - i. In serious conflict ask that a third party ensure that everything is being fulfilled according to the agreed upon plan.

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In Christian relationship, we should not practice FIGHT or FLIGHT
We should do what's RIGHT

Marriages should not require more than NEGOTIATION.
DON'T resort to peace faking or peace breaking.