

"The Four G's of a Peacemaker"
Series: Living in Harmony, Part 3

illus - People in the CHURCH can say the most UNKIND and HURTFUL things. MISSIONARY I know.

- *His son was ridiculed for his weight.*
- *Not very athletic.*
- *EXPECTATIONS regarding how he dressed*
- *Picked on*
- *called "a dummy" because he was not bright*
- *By the time he was in high school he was contemplating suicide*
- *Dad envisioned that he would write on his tombstone, "killed by Christianity."*

Ghandi was touched by Christianity when he was young. He thought that the Gospels offered the hope to free India from its caste system. So he went to a church in his neighborhood and was met at the door dressed in his humble lower class clothes. He was met by the ushers, who told him that there were other churches for people like him. Ghandi turned away from any further examination of Christianity because it contained its own "caste system."

See Richard Strauss, "Growing More Like Jesus," (143).

BECOMING a PEACEMAKER

James 3:13-18

*13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. 15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. 16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. 18 **Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.***

Isaiah 32:17 *The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.*

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

Outline source, "The Peacemaker" by Ken Sande.

Why Sande's Outline?

- It is widely recognized
- It is Biblically based

I. Glorify God

Key passage: Romans 15:5

II. Get the Log Out of Your Eye

Key passage: **Matthew 7:1-5**

A. Before approaching someone else regarding their sin, evaluate your life regarding your OWN sin.

B. What does this look like?

1. Examine yourself.

a. Galatians 6:1-2

b. Greek δοκιμάζω - “To put to the test - like you would test a yoke of oxen before you purchased them... Luke 14:19 *Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.*

c. 2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?*

d. Psalm 26:2 *Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;*

e. Psalm 139:23 *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

f. Galatians 6:4 *Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else*

g. **1 Corinthians 11:31** *But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.*

2. Humble Yourself

a. James 4:10 *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

3. Jesus is NOT speaking against ALL JUDGMENTS, but rather SELF-RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

a. 7:5 “First” take the log out of your eye, THEN go...”

b. 7:6 “do not give dogs what is sacred...”

c. 1 Corinthians 5:12–13 *What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked man from among you.”*

C. REASONS

1. We all face temptation. Galatians 6:1 *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. **But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.***

2. The only Judge is the LORD.

a. James 4:12 *There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?*

b. **TYPO** - NOT Isa 33:12!!! Isaiah 33:22 *For the LORD is our*

judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; it is he who will save us.

3. Our Understanding can be wrong
4. Our heart can be wrong. Proverbs 28:26 *He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.*

III. Gently Restore

Key Passage Galatians 6:1-2

- A. Go Privately Matthew 18:15 *“If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.*
- B. Speak lovingly. Proverbs 15:1 *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*
- C. Be controlled by the Spirit. Galatians 5:22–23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*
- D. Guard your tongue!
 1. You CANNOT take those words back!
 2. If you are ANGRY, you are prone to say something you will regret!
 3. ***Illus???***
- E. Go even if you were not at fault. Matthew 5:23–24 *“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*
- F. The GREATER goal is the restoration of the SINNER.
- G. More important than being RIGHT
- H. More important than getting your WAY
- I. OTHERS ORIENTATION
- J. Don’t talk down
- K. Don’t Capture people off guard
- L. Clarify
- M. *Illus - Jason and “Ray Boltz”*

IV. Go and Be Reconciled

Key passage: Colossians 3:13

- A. Forgiveness is releasing someone from the debt that they owe you because of their sinful behavior.
- B. Forgiveness is not
 1. A feeling *“total forgiveness is a choice. It is not a feeling - at least at first, but is rather an act of the will”* (R. T. Kendall, “Total Forgiveness, 21)

2. Forgetting. *“It is a demonstration of greater grace when we are fully aware of what occurred, and we still choose to forgive.”* (Kendall, 18)
 3. Excusing.
- C. What if the offender does not repent? *You are still free!*
- D. What if the relationship is not restored? *Leave it in the Lord’s hands! You have done all that you can do*
- E. Your ability to forgive depends on your focus.
1. If you focus on what you’ve LOST, you will become bitter.
 2. If you focus on the forgiveness you have RECEIVED, you will forgive others as an act of worship toward God.

Let’s see to it that no one can say they were “killed by Christianity.”

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