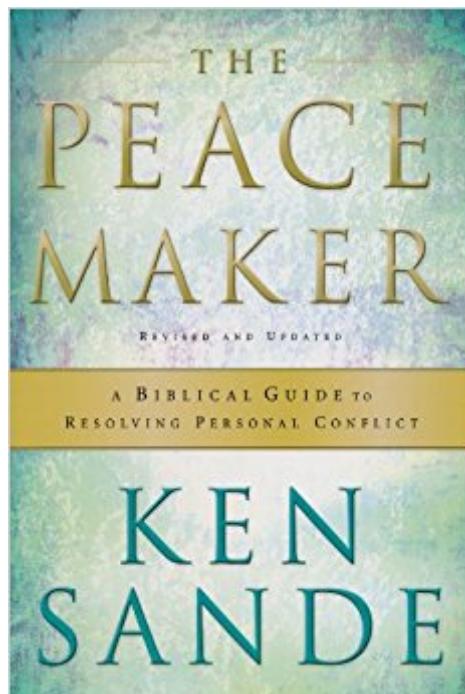


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The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide To Resolving Personal Conflict



Synopsis

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." But it often seems like conflict and disagreement are unavoidable. Serious, divisive conflict is everywhere-within families, in the church, and out in the world. And it can seem impossible to overcome its negative force in our lives. In *The Peacemaker*, Ken Sande presents a comprehensive and practical theology for conflict resolution designed to bring about not only a cease-fire but also unity and harmony. Sande takes readers beyond resolving conflicts to true, life-changing reconciliation with family members, coworkers, and fellow believers. Biblically based, *The Peacemaker* is full of godly wisdom and useful suggestions that are easily applied to any relationship needing reconciliation. Sande's years of experience as an attorney and as president of Peacemaker Ministries will strengthen readers' confidence as they stand in the gap as peacemakers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The *Peacemaker* is the most helpful guide I have found to assist Christians in resolving conflict. It takes an uncommonly Biblical approach, leading one through a process designed to foster reconciliation, to God's glory. One is instructed in ways to "get the log out of your eye"; to "go and show your brother his faults," and to "go and be reconciled." These principles are applied to a variety of situations: third-party conciliation, forgiveness, confession, church discipline, self-examination, conflict assessment, and more. Sande continually reminds his readers that conflict is a great opportunity to see the Gospel lived out in radical ways. By this God is glorified in ways the world cannot explain. This must be the focus of all peacemaking: "whatever you do, do it all for the

glory of God" (I Cor. 10:31). While Sande provides an abundance of practical techniques for implementing his understanding of Biblical principle of peacemaking, these by themselves cannot accomplish what is needed. The methods only provide opportunities for reconciliation, but true reconciliation is always a heart issue. In the end, all of Sande's steps and procedures must happen through faith alone in Christ alone. Apart from him we can do nothing (John 15:5). And simply going through the motions, however precisely, cannot serve as a substitute for the work of the Holy Spirit, who alone can apply Christ's work of reconciliation to us. Conflict may cease on the surface, and hostilities can be contained or sublimated, but true reconciliation cannot happen apart from the Holy Spirit giving the parties a growing experience of what Christ has done to reconcile us to the Father (2 Cor. 5:18-20). Since teaching the Peacemaker c.e.

Ken Sande is an engineer, attorney and conciliator. This book provides practical advice for reconciliation between parties who are in conflict. Most of the advice consists of basic communication skills such as listen to the other person, agree in areas that you can, try to understand from the other person's perspective, etc. He also follows the Biblical steps for resolution of conflict such as overlook minor conflict, go to the other person directly, get one or two others to go along and finally tell it to the church. His points on overlooking conflict are very good and this is not something that is taught frequently, if at all, in many churches today. The methodology for mediation and arbitration can be helpful and Sande especially touches on ethical responsibilities to avoid exposure to liability. Born-again Christians will probably have some difficulty with the theology in the book. Sande is a lawyer, not a theologian. His definition of Christianity seems very broad. He quotes Justice Anthony Scalia, a member of the Roman Catholic church, as an authoritative figure on the role of Christianity and conflict/litigation. At times, it seems Sande views anyone associated with a church as a Christian. Perhaps he is intentionally broad in order to make the book accessible to as many people as possible. He does not seem to believe that conversion brings about a change in a person in that "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." There is no discussion of the influence and power of the Holy Spirit to make Christian fruit including peaceableness which is not something we try to do in our own strength. In addition, Sande does not seem to see a change from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

The author, Ken Sande, is an attorney and president of Peacemaker Ministries. His book, Peacemaker, is an anchor book in a growing product line of resource materials and an associated

mini-industry focused on biblical peacemaking. It is designed to help readers "turn conflict into an opportunity to strengthen relationships, preserve valuable resources, and make their lives a testimony to the love and power of Christ." **HIGHLIGHTS:** Sande's approach to biblical peacemaking can be summarized as the "Four G's:" (1) glorify God, (2) get the log out of your eye, (3) gently restore, and (4) go and be reconciled. The need is international. Peacemaking does not come naturally in any culture. All people, regardless of nationality, normally respond to conflict in two ways: (1) attack and (2) escape. Each response comes in degrees. Escape may be manifested in increasing levels of intensity by denial, flight, or suicide. Attack may appear as assault, litigation, or murder. Interestingly, the extremes of both responses end in death -- i.e., murder and suicide. Sande argues for a middle way -- the biblical way. The escape response focuses on the self -- on the "me" of conflict. The best it can achieve is "peace-faking." The attack response centers on the antagonist -- on the "you" of conflict. It is "peace-breaking." The biblical way, in contrast, is concerned about the relationship -- on the "us" of conflict. It is "peacemaking." Peacemaking is positive, fruitful. The more a person strays from peacemaking into peace-faking or peace-breaking, the more costly the negative outcomes become. Conflict has four sources: (1) miscommunication, (2) differing values, (3) scarce resources, and (4) sin. The first three sources are aggravated by the latter.

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