

To Give or Not to Give?

“Resolving Everyday Conflict” series

MBC November 10, 2013 – Pastor Barry R. Mulligan

PEACEMAKING RESPONSES

G-1: Go to Higher Ground – Glorify God Remember what is most important during a conflict. 1 Corinthians 10:31, John 17:1-23

G-2: Get Real – (Get the Log Out of Your Eye) Take responsibility for your contribution to a conflict. Matthew 7:1-5

G-3: Gently Engage Others (Gently Restore) Help others see how they have contributed to a conflict Matthew 18:15-16

G-4: Get Together on Lasting Solutions

Go and be Reconciled

Strengthen relationships through genuine reconciliation & agreement. Matthew 5:23-24

²³Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23-24

SPIRITUAL BASIS OF RECONCILING

Forgiveness

Forgiveness is NOT **Forgetting**

...but an **Activity**

Forgiveness is NOT **Excusing**

...but deals **Honestly** with sin

Forgiveness is NOT a **Feeling**

...but a **Choice**

Forgiveness is NOT a **Single** event

...but a **Process**

Forgiveness is a **Decision** that I will not let this incident harm us any further.

“(It) is a choice you make by God’s grace in spite of your feelings.”
The Peace Maker, Ken Sande

FORGIVENESS COMPONENTS – TWO STAGES

Heart component... Having an Attitude of forgiveness.

Transactional component... forgiveness is granted.

FOUR PROMISES – I WILL NOT...

1. **dwelt** on this incident.

2. **bring up** this incident again & use it against you.

3. **talk** to others about this incident.

4. **let** this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

CONSEQUENCES: Forgiveness **DOES** remove the consequence of a **broken** relationship.