

# Pathways to Peace: Finding Peace with Others

Are you involved in a conflict with a family member, a coworker or someone else right now? You can expect tension, turmoil, stress and suffering until it is resolved. Your broken relationship will not get better on its own. God has provided all you need to get through that conflict and find peace. Follow this pathway to learn how to apply His principles in your situation and pursue peace with others!

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

**Ephesians 4:3**

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.*

**Matthew 5:9**

## FINDING PEACE WITH OTHERS

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# Introduction

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Welcome to our presentation, Finding Peace with Others.

Unity and harmony are important to God. Because they are among His highest priorities, God expects all who know and follow Him to pursue peace with others. Many Christians, unfortunately, are not familiar with the principles God has established for how to live at peace with others and therefore don't practice them. If you have selected this resource because you want to seek reconciliation or resolution for a particular situation, God is pleased with your decision to do so His way.

While there is work ahead, you have made the right choice. God will not let you down. He provides the way to genuine peace. If you will follow Him, He will guide you to it.

# God's G.P.S.

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Conflicts and disputes cause confusion, frustration and division. Do not worry. God has provided His G.P.S. to show you the way to genuine peace.

- **G**ood News: Jesus Christ
- **P**ower: The Holy Spirit
- **S**cripture: God's Truth

## **Good News: Jesus Christ**

Jesus has done everything that is necessary for you to be at peace with God and find peace with others. Jesus is God's greatest gift to you, but you must accept this gift. If you have, that's great! If you haven't, you can learn more about the Good News of Jesus Christ through our presentation Peace with God on our website. It's located under the "Find Peace" tab.

## **Power: The Holy Spirit**

God sends the Holy Spirit to live in you when you ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Savior and Lord. The power you need to reconcile broken relationships and to resolve disputes comes from the Holy Spirit.

## **Scripture: God's Truth**

The Bible is the written record of God's truth that contains reliable direction for all aspects of life. God never asks or expects anything that is contrary to what the Bible teaches. He promises peace to those who seek to understand and follow His Word. Stay connected with His G.P.S. and navigate your way to peace by G.R.A.C.E.

# God's G.R.A.C.E.

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Grace is the favor and blessing God lovingly offers us through Jesus. We do not deserve it and we can never earn it. By grace we are freed from sin and death and it is only by grace that we have the power to follow God and do His will. As someone who is a recipient of God's grace, you should unhesitatingly exhibit to others—especially to those who belong to the family of believers<sup>1</sup>—the grace you yourself have so freely received. Expressing grace when involved in a dispute or conflict is demonstrated by showing humility, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love.

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<sup>1</sup>Galatians 6:10

## Navigate by G.R.A.C.E.

G.R.A.C.E. expresses the biblical truths of living at peace with God and others. It provides a reliable map you can use with God's G.P.S. to navigate the conflicts and disputes you face. There are five points to God's G.R.A.C.E. for living at peace:

- **G**lorify God.
- **R**esect the world and its ways.
- **A**cept personal responsibility.
- **C**onfront others gently.
- **E**mbrace unity and harmony.

Each G.R.A.C.E. point is an essential step, and each builds on those that precede it. There are no short cuts. Let's now take a detailed look at each step beginning with Glorify God.

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# Glorify God

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31

Nothing should come before God in our lives. This is especially true when we face conflicts and disputes. As we seek peace with others, all that we think, do and say should honor and please God.

God, however, does not force us to follow Him. Instead, He asks that we willingly choose to follow Him and to give Him glory.

Before going further, you must choose who you will follow. Will it be God? Yourself? Someone or something else? Everything else depends on this choice. Make the right one. Choose to follow God and give Him glory.

God receives the glory He alone deserves when you:

## Worship Him!

He is great. Seek Him. Honor Him. Praise Him.

## Trust Him!

He is good. He is faithful. Believe that He can help you.

## Obey Him!

Decide that you will follow God and His way no matter what.

God's ultimate desire is to change you to be more like Jesus. He uses conflicts and disputes like those you are facing to do this. Give Him glory and He will stand beside you and guide you through anything you face.

Ask yourself the following questions, then ask God to show you how to follow Him and bring Him glory in your situation.

- Am I following anything or anyone other than God?
- Am I worshipping Him?
- Do I trust Him?
- Will I obey Him in difficult situations?
- What specific choices should I make to bring God glory?

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# Reject the World and its Ways

*Do not love the world or anything in the world.*

*If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

1 John 2:15

The world opposes God and constantly encourages you to follow your desires and ignore God's will.

These selfish, natural desires will lead you astray and rob you of peace. The world is not a true friend. God is. Reject the world and listen to Him.

A worldly response to conflicts and disputes makes things worse, not better. The two natural responses to conflict and disputes are fight and flight.

We fight to intimidate or overpower those who oppose us. We flee to avoid conflicts and disputes rather than deal with them.

Fight and flight are usually foolish choices that share a common source: Fear.

The wise live by FAITH, not fear. Faith believes that God is in control. Jesus said that by Faith, you can face and overcome anything. Faith makes it possible for you to make wise choices in challenging situations. It gives you the courage and confidence to:

- Overlook minor offenses.
- Restore broken relationships.
- Fairly resolve disputes.
- Seek help from others or the church.

There is no room for compromise. The world's ways are dead ends. Reject them.

Be wise, and walk by Faith.

Ask yourself the following questions, then ask God to show you how to follow Him and bring Him glory in your situation.

- Is the world or my desires influencing me? How?
- What have been my responses in this situation so far? Have they been worldly or wise?
- Why have I responded as I have?
- Has fear or faith motivated me?
- What wise choices would help resolve this matter?

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## Accept Personal Responsibility

*Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

Matthew 7:3,5

### First Examine Yourself

Jesus teaches that peace always begins with you, not the others involved. Until you accept responsibility for your part in the conflict or dispute, you cannot expect others to do the same.

Focus on your role in the situation. Have your attitudes and actions been inconsistent with what the Bible teaches? Have you thought, done or said things that displeased Jesus? Your heart will deceive you! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see these things.

### Then Confess

Admit your wrongful actions and attitudes openly and honestly to God and others. Confession brings mercy, forgiveness and healing. To be sincere and effective, you must:

**Contact Everyone Affected.** Go quickly.

**Own it all.** Be thorough and specific.

**No Excuses.** No ifs, buts, or maybes.

**Fix the Harm.** Make it right and repair the damage.



Express your Sorrow. Apologize and accept the consequences.

Seek Forgiveness. Ask for it and allow time.

Set a new Course. Change shows you meant it!

Ask for God's help and allow Him to change you first!

Ask yourself the following questions, then ask God to show you how to follow Him and bring Him glory in your situation.

- On a scale of 0 to 100 (with 100 being the maximum possible effort), how would God rate the effort I have made thus far to restore peace and resolve my situation?
  - What does God want me to see about myself and my motivations in this situation?
  - Are there things that God wants me to confess or change?
  - What specifically does He want me to do and with whom?
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## Confront Others Gently

*Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.*

Galatians 6:1a

Jesus commands you to go to others when things are not right between you, or when they are causing serious harm. Confrontation is God's way to recover and restore those who have wandered off. Done well, confrontation is an act of love.

- First ask "Should I go?"

Is this matter too serious to overlook?

Do they have something against you?

Are you going for the right reasons?

- **If so, then go privately.**

If possible, address things just between you and them. Be respectful, quick to listen and slow to speak. Point them to Jesus. Share truth gracefully. Help them change!

- **If necessary, involve others.**

If your private efforts are not successful, take others along. They can ask good questions, encourage self control and courtesy, and provide guidance and a fresh perspective.

- **Then if necessary, ask the Church for help.**

If you have done all you can and serious issues remain, get church leaders involved. The church is responsible for providing God's people with the loving oversight, direction and accountability they need.

- **Always remember your goals.**

Reconcile and Restore the Relationship.

Fairly Resolve Disputes.

Ask yourself the following questions, then ask God to show you how to follow Him and bring Him glory in your situation.

- Are there words and actions that I should overlook?
- Are there others who need help in seeing their part in this conflict? Why?
- Does God want me to approach them? If so, how and when?
- If they are not willing to listen to me, what would God want me to do next?
- Should others or the church be involved? Who? How? When?

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# Embrace Unity and Harmony

*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

Ephesians 4:2-3

Jesus expects you to seek unity and harmony for your own good, for His glory and to show the world that He is God's Son. Therefore, YOU must do all YOU can to heal wounds, reconcile and restore relationships and resolve disputes with others.

## Forgive Others Freely

Those forgiven by God in Jesus should be quick to forgive others. Get rid of all bitterness, anger and malice. Do not take revenge, not even a little. Offer those who have hurt or wronged you the same mercy and grace you have received.

Unconditionally release them from responsibility for your personal pain. Remain ready to reconcile and restore relationships. There still may be consequences for those who have hurt or wronged you, but let God take care of that. He expects you to forgive regardless.

## Resolve Disputes Fairly

Do not allow disagreements over things to create division. Seek cooperative and just resolutions.

Be quick to H.E.A.R. others and to reach a fair resolution:

- **H**umble yourself.
- **E**steem others.
- **A**cknowledge everyone's interests.
- **R**esolve differences as Jesus would.

Ask yourself the following questions, then ask God to show you how to follow Him and bring Him glory in your situation.

- Am I bitter at all?
- Have I forgiven those who have wronged or hurt me?
- What should I do to resolve any remaining issues fairly?
- What am I going to do if things do not go as I hope?

# God's Timing

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Do not be discouraged if you do not reconcile or agree. Be patient. God has his own timing. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. While you are waiting, trust God's G.P.S. and continue to navigate by G.R.A.C.E.

It will remind you of the critical steps along God's pathway to peace.

- Glorify God.
- Reject the world and its ways.
- Accept personal responsibility.
- Confront others gently.
- Embrace unity and harmony.

G.R.A.C.E. expresses the peacemaking truths found in the Bible. It is the map you must use to navigate —God's way—the conflicts and disputes you face.

God's way is best. Everyone must cooperate with Jesus. Faithfully follow Him. Navigate by G.R.A.C.E. His Peace is guaranteed.

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let Your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

*~ Jesus*

John 14:27

# Need More Help?

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Everyone needs help and encouragement from time to time. Our mission is to point people to peace with God and others.

Additional help can be found in the Our Services section of our website.

If you would like to speak with someone about your situation, you can reach us through the Contact Us tab on our website [www.peacepoint.com](http://www.peacepoint.com).