

## How to Become a Peacemaker

with Leslie Vernick

### 1.) How do we handle conflicts?

“Fictional Heroes from our childhood”

- We grew up with two options: either to be passive or aggressive
  - How do we find balance between the two?
- 

#### a.) What is your response to conflict?

-Conflict can make us uncomfortable and confused with how to handle it.

(Harvard Study: Over 100 young girls surveyed from ages 7-18)

- A definite shift occurs in many young women.
- For many, honest often means taking a risk and being rejected.
- Girls often just want to feel accepted.

#### b.) We need to be 'God-centered' women.

-What is the price of peace?

### 2.) Definition of Conflict:

- a.) Disagreement
- b.) Reasons conflict can erupt:
  - Disapproval

## **Numbers 12**

-Jealousy

## **David and Saul**

-Selfishness

## **James 4**

-Selfishness = When we demand what we want without consideration for others feelings.

-Being sinned against: If we keep silent after repeated offenses, it's more like being a 'peacekeeper' rather than a 'peacemaker', like God wants us to be.

-Conflict is necessary at times.

### **3.) Differences**

-Learn to listen to the other person's perspective.

Queen Esther: Risked relationships to bring peace; she knew she couldn't be silent.

-We're often afraid of the consequences of speaking up: confrontation

## **Matthew 5:9**

-Passivity is not a fruit of the Spirit! Fear is not a fruit of the Spirit!

### **4.) What would God have us do to bring about true peace?**

**Psalms 34:14**

**Hebrews 12:14**

**Romans 12:8**

-Withdrawing from conflict gives the illusion of peace.

-We need to be empowered by God to have peace.

Biblical References: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5.) **A genuine Peacemaker:**

- a.) has the Fruits of the Spirit working in their lives
- b.) empties herself of self: self-interest, self-consciousness, and selfish motives
- c.) is interested in the glory of God and the restoration of relationships.

## 6.) **What does a real Peacemaker do?**

- Everything to do with God's glory
- The restoration of another person.
- She wants to understand the true nature of a problem and she's willing to listen.

-Learn to listen first - with open ears and hearts

### **Philippians 2:2-3**

-Learn to speak the truth in love

### **I Corinthians 13**

### **Proverbs 27**

- Reckless words can pierce like a sword
- Don't bring up every little 'injustice'

## 7.) **When is confrontation necessary?**

a.) Is the matter dishonoring to God?

### **Romans 2**

b.) Is the matter hurting them?

-Be gentle and careful to help restore and bring healing.

c.) Is the issue hurting our relationship with them?

### **Matthew 5:18**

-If we are the ones hurt, we need to go to them.

-Confrontation can be embarrassing.

-Speak the truth in love.

## 8.) **How to confront someone biblically:**

-Start with prayer

-Consult with other Godly people if necessary

-Choose the right time and place

-Say it in person

-Plan your words carefully....

Pursue peace, speak the truth in love, pray for our friends and our enemies  
and trust Christ with the outcomes.

**-Become True Peacemakers-**