

2024 MADE TO
MINISTER
CONFERENCE

SESSION 2

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*Degrees of Conflict: Pursuing
Peace to the Nth Degree*



HELPFUL
DISTINCTIONS
WHEN
CONSIDERING
CONFLICT

Resolution versus Reconciliation

Resolution is solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter.

Reconciliation is reestablishing friendly relations after disagreement or enmity.

...Two people can be fully reconciled without having every difference resolved. And two people can have differences resolved but reconciliation would be inappropriate...




A
PURPOSEFUL
DEFINITION
OF
CONFLICT

Conflict resolution is a sanctifying process by which we apply the means that God has given us, namely, his love and peace as resolving agents towards our relational conflicts so that we bring God glory by demonstrating his love and peace as ministers of reconciliation.

UNDERSTANDING OUR
CONFLICT
THEOLOGICALLY

The logo consists of the letters 'MIM' in a bold, dark teal, sans-serif font. The letters are centered within a white circle, which is itself centered on a dark teal background that occupies the right half of the image.

MIM

A large, stylized logo consisting of two 'M' characters in a light brown color, centered within a white circle. The circle is set against a background of a larger, solid light brown circle. The 'M's are thick and blocky, with a slight shadow effect.

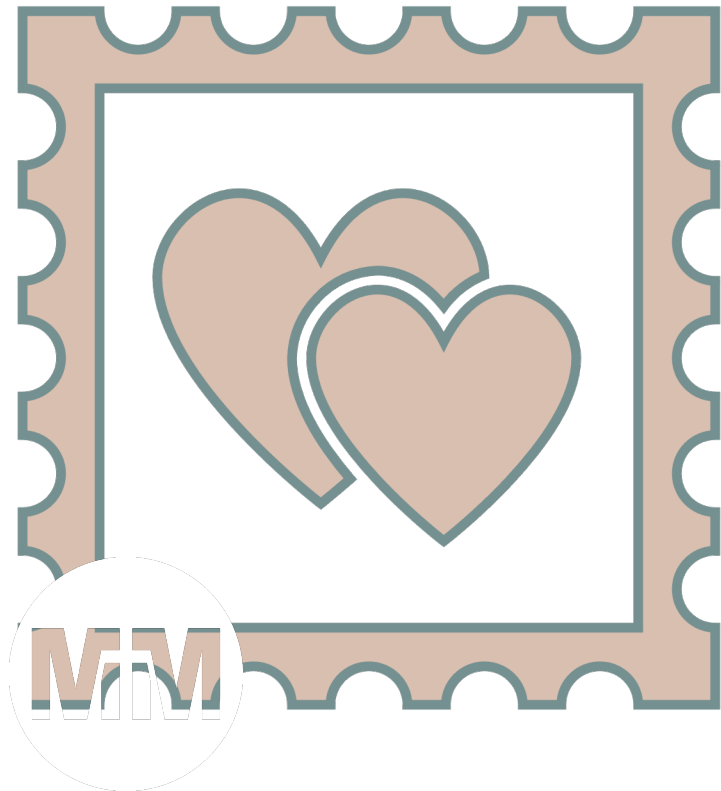
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CALLED THROUGH CONFLICT

Jesus calls us to love and peace

- Jesus commands us to love as he loved us (Jn. 13:34–35).
- Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, gives us his peace, applies his peace, and we practice this peace (Jn. 14:26–27; 16:33).

THE HOLY SPIRIT CONFORMING US THROUGH CONFLICT INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST



Practicing the Peace that God Works in Us

- We are called to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts Col. 3.15
- Work out your salvation because God works in us to will and to work for his good pleasure. Phil 2:12b-13

Pursuing the Peace that God Wills for US

- Strive for peace with everyone. Heb. 12:14
- So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Rom. 12:18
- So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Rom. 14:19

BIBLICALLY RESOLVING
OUR CONFLICT

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MAM

3 DEGREES OF CONFLICT THAT CONFORM US INTO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

- Misunderstanding
- Disagreement
- Moral Offense

MIMM

MISUNDERSTANDING



Lack of Discernment

- Judging incorrectly, lacking wisdom and understanding

Negative Interpretation

- My motives and beliefs interpret what I hear

“What I believed is Not so”

MISUNDERSTANDING

Responsive Opportunity



Listen	Listen to understand <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance Pro. 1:5
Communicate	Communicate to build up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up I Cor. 8:1• Strive to excel in building up the church...let all things be done for building up I Cor. 14:12; 26
Seek	Seek the truth in love <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Eph. 4:15–16

Nth DEGREE PEACE

DISAGREEMENT



- Difference of Opinion
 - Values, Goals, Priorities, Expectations
- Judging Opinions and Convictions
 - Leads to Quarreling

...not in quarreling and jealousy 1 Cor. 13:13b

...but not to quarrel over opinions 1 Cor. 14:1

DISAGREEMENT'S

Responsive Opportunity



Be Submissive

- Submit yourselves therefore to God. James 4:7a
- Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Eph. 5:21

Seek Advice

- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. Pro. 12:15
- Presumption leads to nothing but conflict, but wisdom is gained by those who take advice. Pro. 13:10

Give Grace

- But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Eph. 4:7
- As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Pet. 4:10



NTH DEGREE PEACE

MORAL OFFENSE



Degrees of Offense

- If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. Matt. 18:15a
- So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matt. 5:23-24
- But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers! 1 Cor. 6:8

MORAL OFFENSE

Offenders Opportunity



Confession (confessing sin to God and the person you offended)

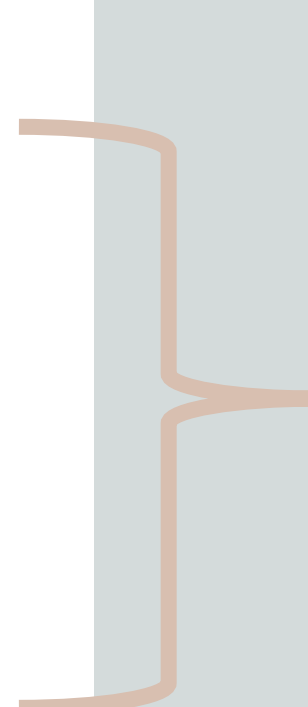
- Confess your sin to God. 1 Jn. 1:9

Make Amends (relationally righting a wrong)

- Admitting the specific wrong committed against the person
- Asking forgiveness for the specific wrong committed
- Being diligent in repairing the damage caused
- Pursuing godly grief in keeping with repentance

NTH DEGREE PEACE

7:11 Reconciliation Plan



MORAL OFFENSE

Opportunity for the Offended



Forgiveness (between you and God)

- Give up all claim on account of a debt
 - He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligation, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. Col. 2:14

Ask God to heal Your Wounds

- Humble yourself
- Trust God's Justice
 - Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your cares on him because he cares about you. 1 Pet. 5:6-7
 - The God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while. 1 Pet. 5:10

NTH DEGREE PEACE

Pursuing Peace to the Nth Degree



Forgiveness (between me and God)



Making Amends (from me to you)



Reconciliation (us together)

*Material adapted from Watermark Church's re|engage material.



THE PURPOSE OF OUR CONFLICT

“Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” 2 Cor. 13:11

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Cor. 13:14