

THE GOSPEL---

POWER FOR PEACEMAKING

Ken Sande, August 7, 2011



PEACEMAKER
MINISTRIES

1. Many Christians struggle with conflict because they constantly forget to “power up” the gospel.

2. Through the gospel, God has not only given us eternal life, but also made us new creations with new purposes and powers for everyday life (Col. 1:6-12).

3. The gospel empowers us for peacemaking by revealing two things: what God has done for us through Christ, and who we are in Christ (Col. 3:12a).

4. Through the gospel, Jesus models the essential elements of peacemaking (Col. 3:12b-15).

5. How can you grow as a peacemaker? (Col. 1:6-12)

- **Pray** that Jesus would live in you so fully that your mind and heart are steadily transformed to be like his (Eph. 1:17-21; 3:14-19).
- **Learn** (through faithful study) to delight in the gospel and understand its rich implications, especially for peacemaking.
- **Welcome** conflict as homework, as an opportunity to imitate Jesus and practice what he is teaching you (Eph. 5:1).

The gospel is the incredible news that Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins and rescue us from eternal separation from God, and he rose from the dead to give us new life. Through faith in Jesus, we've been reconciled to God, adopted into his family, empowered to love even our enemies, and given the gift of enjoying Him forever.

For more insights on gospel-centered peacemaking,
visit www.Peacemaker.net.

A Glimpse of the Life-Changing Power of the Gospel

	Forgetting the gospel ...	Empowered by the gospel ...	Where have you forgotten to draw on the power of the gospel? How might you draw on that power today?
<i>When I realize that a conflict exists ...</i>	I wait for others to come to me, especially if I think they are more at fault than I am.	I imitate Jesus by taking the initiative to seek reconciliation, even if others seem to be more in the wrong (Rom. 5:8).	
<i>My top priority when I'm in conflict ...</i>	I try to vindicate myself and make myself look good and right.	I try to bring glory to God by reflecting his reconciling love and character (1 Cor. 10:31; 2 Cor. 3:18; Ex. 34:5-7).	
<i>When others behave like enemies ...</i>	I treat them like enemies, thinking and speaking ill of them, and avoiding them as much as possible.	I walk in Jesus' steps by loving them, acting like a friend, and sacrificing to be reconciled to them (Col. 1:21-22).	
<i>When I've done something wrong ...</i>	I cling to my self-righteousness by concealing or minimizing my wrongs and shifting the blame to others.	I trust that Jesus has washed my sins away, so I can stop hiding my sins and more freely confess them to others (1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13).	
<i>When I or others keep doing the same sins ...</i>	I become discouraged and hopeless, so I give up on relationships or stop working to change myself.	I have hope because Jesus promised to steadily change us, so I can view conflict as a path to growth (2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 1:6).	
<i>When others have done wrong ...</i>	I point out their sins with as much detail and persistence as is needed to force them to admit they are wrong.	I recall how kindly Jesus deals with me, so I seek to correct and restore others gently (Rom. 2:4; Gal. 6:1).	
<i>When others hurt me deeply ...</i>	I dwell on their wrongs, indulge in self-pity, lash back, or try to have nothing to do with them.	I forgive just as God has forgiven me, refusing to dwell on their sin or let it stand between us (Eph. 4:32).	
<i>When conflict persists in my church ...</i>	I look out for myself by withdrawing from relationships or moving on to another church.	I remember that Jesus died to make us a family, so I keep doing all I can to build my church's peace and unity (Phil. 2:1-11).	

Free Online Peacemaker Training

Peacemaker Ministries would like to offer the members and friends of Covenant Life Church free access to our newest online video series, *Resolving Everyday Conflict*. This series provides an introduction to the basic principles of gospel-centered peacemaking.

Normally costing \$29.95, it will be available to your entire congregation at no charge through the end of October as gift to help you grow in your ability to deal conflict in a way that honors God and blesses those around you.

To get a quick glimpse of the content in the first of the eight video segments, you can simply go to [Peacemaker University](http://pmu.Peacemaker.net) (pmu.Peacemaker.net), scroll down and click on the link, "Click here for first lesson free." That session is about 30 minutes long.

The entire course is taught by Tim Pollard, our VP of Communications, who was a member of the SGM church in Fairfax before we persuaded him to move to Montana.

Each of the eight sessions has a detailed study guide you can print, a 30 minutes video, and then optional learning reinforcements such as recommended reading, review questions, group discussions (which are open to everyone who uses the Covenant Life enrollment key), and personal application questions.

If you would like to take the full eight part course, you will need to log into Peacemaker University and open an account as follows (this takes only 2-3 minutes):

- Go to [Peacemaker University](http://pmu.Peacemaker.net) (pmu.Peacemaker.net) and press the login button in the upper right hand corner
- In the next window, click the "Create New Account" button on the right side of the screen
- In the next window, insert a user name and password of your choosing, and other requested material, and then press "Create my new account" at bottom of window
- You will be sent an email to confirm your registration. When you receive it, click on the link, which will take you to our PMU web site
- Click on the link to "Resolving Everyday Conflict (Full Course)"
- In the next window, scroll to the bottom and insert "**covlife0728**" (without the quotes) in the enrollment key window, and then press "Enroll me in this course" button.
- In the next window, you can read information about the course. To start the course, press the "Start Course" button at bottom of window.

If you have any questions about this course, please contact us at mail@Peacemaker.net.