



PRINCIPLES FOR PURSUING PEACE

When it comes to pursuing peace, there are two extremes we must avoid.

1. The tendency to want to escape
 - A. One way to escape is through denial – See I Samuel 2:22-25
 - B. Staying at a “safe distance” – Genesis 16:6-8

2. The urge to want to attack
 - A. Assault – Acts 6:8-15
 - B. Litigate – I Cor. 6:1-8

THE PROPER RESPONSE

1. Forgive – Proverbs 19:11
2. Reconcile-Colossians 3:13
3. Negotiate-Phil. 2:4
4. Mediate-Matthew 18:16
5. Arbitration-I Corinthians 6:4
6. Love-I Corinthians 13:4-8

THE PAUSE PRINCIPLE

- P** Put down in writing your Scriptural concerns

- A** Affirm relationships. “Blessed are the peacemakers...” “Inasmuch as it is possible, pursue peace with all men
- U** Understand as much as you can about the other person’s thinking, motives, and desires.
- S** Search for ways to bring reconciliation and resolution. In doing so, you are following God’s example in the Gospel. Ephesians 4:32
- E** Evaluate options based on prayer, Scripture, and counsel. In the final analysis, we should ask: “Am I more concerned about MY sin or someone else and their sin.

THE PROPER PATH AHEAD

How do you know if you are on the right track?

1. If you can say: “I will not dwell on this incident,” you are moving toward forgiveness.
2. If you can say, “I will not bring up this incident again to use it as a weapon,” You are on the right track.
3. When you can say: “I will not talk to others about this situation,” you are making progress.
4. “I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship,” indicates a good attitude.