

CD 1: THE POWER AND APPEAL OF A PEACEMAKING CHURCH

1. Jerusalem had a “dream church”(Acts 2:14-47).
2. Even the best of churches experience conflict and need peacemaking (Acts 6, 9, 11, 15; 1 Corinthians; Gal. 5:15).
3. God delights to reveal the power of the gospel through biblical peacemaking (Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 2:11-22).
4. Biblical peacemaking is not a tool; it is a lifestyle tied to spiritual growth (Acts 2:42-47; Col. 3:12-14).
5. Spiritual growth flourishes as a church builds a “culture of peace.”
 - “Culture” is the combination of beliefs, values, and behaviors that surround and shape us.
 - A “culture of peace” has five key characteristics (Acts 2:42-47; Col. 3:12-17):
 - Passion for the gospel
 - Peacemaking theology
 - Shepherd leadership
 - Commitment to relationships
 - Shared responsibility
6. The world constantly opposes a culture of peace (1 Cor. 3:1-3).
 - “The average household in the U.S. tuned into television an average of 8 hours per day. The average person watched television 4 hours each day, the highest level in 15 years.” (Nielsen Media Research, 9/29/05, www.nielsenmedia.com)
 - “The average congregant spends more time watching television in one day than he spends in all spiritual pursuits combined for an entire week.” (George Barna, 12/17/02, www.barna.org)
 - “The leading influencers in American society [are] movies, television, the Internet, books, music, public policy and law, and family. The Christian church is not among the top dozen influences these days - a far cry from the way things used to be.” (George Barna, 9/17/02, www.barna.org)

7. The Peacemaking Church Resource Set is designed for building a culture of peace (Acts 2:42-47; 20:20).
 - Pastor's Box: Inspiring
 - Small Group Leader's Box: Teaching
 - Peacemaking Team Box: Embedding

8. A culture of peace produces many blessings (James 3:18).
 - Marriages, friendships, and other relationships are strengthened and preserved, resulting in fewer divorces and a lower turnover of members, staff, and volunteers.
 - Members resolve most of their conflicts personally and privately, releasing pastors from the "complaint loop."
 - Conflicts are turned into opportunities for people to be freed from sin and mature in faith and character.
 - Ministries and missions are more united and fruitful.
 - Peace and reconciliation reveal the health of your church, glorifying Jesus Christ, enhancing your witness, and stimulating church growth (Acts 2:47).

Take hold of the blessing!

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God."
Matthew 5:9*

CD 2: THE PASTOR'S ROLE IN BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE

Introduction:

The pastor is the key to building a culture of peace

- You are leading your church through a war of cultures (Rom. 12:2).
- The power of the pulpit (2 Tim. 4:2).
- The power of personal example (1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Tim. 4:12; Phil. 4:8).
“Cattle can be herded, but sheep must be led.” (A.W. Tozer, “Pastoral Ministry: Sheep Are Led”)
- When it comes to peacemaking, a church will advance only as far as its pastor (Phil. 4:9).

1. Promote a passion for the gospel

- The gospel is the power behind true peacemaking.
- Bring the gospel and all its implications to people who are in conflict and inspire faithfulness by reminding them who God is, what he is like, and what he is doing (1 Cor. 1:4-9; Phil. 4:4).
- Bring freedom and power by asking, “What difference does the gospel make in this situation?”

2. Teach a peacemaking theology

- Many Christians have only a “devotional theology” for peacemaking.
- Scripture provides a thorough, practical, and powerful system for peacemaking, which God wants every believer to learn and apply; this system can be organized into the Four G’s:
 - Glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31).
 - Get the log out of your eye (Matt. 7:3-5).
 - Gently restore (Gal. 6:1).
 - Go and be reconciled (Matt. 5:23-24).
- Introduce the Four G’s through a church-wide small group study.

- Weave peacemaking theology into regular preaching and teaching.
- When conflicts arise, pull out your peacemaking theology and put it to work.

3. Provide shepherd leadership

- God blesses a church by giving it shepherd leaders (Jer. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:24-25).
- Use the Resource Set to train leaders to be peacemakers (they can listen to Pastor's Essential Briefing CDs, read *The Peacemaker*, lead a Small Group Study, and train and work with the Peacemaking Team).
- Encourage leaders to model peacemaking in their families, in the church, and at work (1 Cor. 11:1).
- Inspire leaders to personally and sacrificially assist believers who are struggling with sin and conflict (Matt. 18:12-20; 1 Pet. 5:2-4).

4. Encourage a commitment to relationships

- Conflict thrives on weak relationships, but finds few footholds in a strong community.
- Preach and show that the church is a real family made up of brothers and sisters who will not forsake one another (Ruth 1:16-18), and a real body, joined together and arranged by God's design for joyful "one anothering" (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:27).
- Model and preach compassion: fellowship, hospitality, patience, forgiveness, comfort for the sick and lonely, sharing of resources, diaconal care, etc. (Acts. 2:42-47; 4:32-35; 6:1-7; Rom. 12:9-15; Col. 3:13; James 1:27; 1 Pet. 4:9).
- Model and preach respect: valuing diversity, listening to others, resisting gossip, respecting authority, etc. (Rom. 12:10; 15:7; Gal. 3:26-29; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Thess. 5:12-13; James 2:1-9; 4:11; 1 Pet. 5:5).

5. Share responsibility for peacemaking

- Even Moses could not do it all (Ex. 18:20-23; Deut. 1:9-18).
- An in-church Peacemaking Team is the key to embedding peacemaking in a church.
- Appoint a gifted Team Leader, who can use the materials in the Peacemaking Team Box to recruit, organize, and train your church's team.
- Team can supplement pastor's teaching to enhance congregation's skills, equip new members, and strengthen relationships.
- When conflict erupts, team members can help restore peace by serving as conflict coaches, mediators, or arbitrators (Matt. 18:12-20; Phil. 4:3; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).

"Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness."

James 3:18