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Bible Study for 2019 Legislative Session

The 4 Gs of Conflict Resolution

Many years ago I was greatly helped by a book by Ken Sande named *The Peacemaker*. Sande is an attorney who was burdened by how many Christians he saw engaging in law suits with one another over trivial matters. He wrote the book to help Christians be able to work through disputes with taking one another to court. **Please note this study is about personal offenses, not legal or moral issues.**

In the book, I learned a concise summary of biblical principles for conflict resolution. Sande called them the “4 Gs of Conflict Resolution.” Because they summarize biblical teaching on how to deal with personal offenses so well, I have often used them in counseling with others. These principles are helpful whenever there is conflict between Christians and can even be applied when a Christian has a conflict with a non-Christian.

I know these principles will be useful in the Kentucky General Assembly. *Don't be shocked!* There is conflict everywhere. One of the greatest revelations to me when I was exposed to this material two decades ago was to see conflict as an opportunity. This doesn't mean that we should be actively seeking conflict, but when it inevitably occurs, we should be ready to respond in a way that glorifies God. The solution isn't to avoid all conflict (this is impossible in a fallen world), but to respond to conflict in a way that results in growth for all involved. Over the next four weeks (Feb. 14, 21, 28, and March 7), we will be looking at each of the 4 Gs in order. Here they are:

1. Glorify God. Each occasion of conflict is an opportunity for God to receive glory through peaceful reconciliation (1 Corinthians 10:31).

2. Get the Log Out of Your Own Eye. The first step to any discussion with anyone else about their problem is to examine yourself! Whenever we do this, we may realize that the other person's problem isn't so big after all.

Matthew 7:3-5 “Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

3. Gently Restore. After having examined yourself, then and only then may you go to your brother or sister. But you should go with the intention to gently restore, not with the desire to unload, or tell someone off, or get something off your chest, or drive someone away.

Galatians 6:1-3 “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”

4. Go and Be Reconciled. When repentance is present and genuine reconciliation takes place, then our responsibility is to go from that point reconciled. The issue is over! (Matthew 5:23-24)

This is where personal conflicts should end. No one else needs to know about it. You've buried the hatchet, handle and all! General rule: If a person is not a part of the problem or the solution, they don't need to know about it.

**Legislators' Weekly Bible study
meets each Thursday in Capitol
Annex Room 436 from 11:30-noon.**