

# PEACEMAKING READINESS GUIDE

Blaine Robison, M.A.

**Instructions:** This Guide was designed to be used in a wide variety of conflicts and disputes. Please carefully and prayerfully consider each question. If a question does not seem to apply to your situation, you may skip over it.

## PART I. THE PRESENT

A. What is it, really, that is getting to you? How have you been hurt?

B. How is this conflict affecting your life?

1. Your attitudes?

2. Your personal devotional life? worship?

3. Your relationships with family, other Christians, co-workers, etc.?

C. Check any of these feelings that you have had during this conflict:

- |                                    |                                    |                                     |                                     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> angry     | <input type="checkbox"/> hurt      | <input type="checkbox"/> lonely     | <input type="checkbox"/> furious    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> thankful  | <input type="checkbox"/> joyful    | <input type="checkbox"/> peaceful   | <input type="checkbox"/> jealous    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> proud     | <input type="checkbox"/> isolated  | <input type="checkbox"/> bitter     | <input type="checkbox"/> guilty     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wholesome | <input type="checkbox"/> resentful | <input type="checkbox"/> worried    | <input type="checkbox"/> frustrated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> forgiving | <input type="checkbox"/> despair   | <input type="checkbox"/> other_____ |                                     |

D. How do you want to respond to this conflict?

- |                                      |                                    |   |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> just settle | <input type="checkbox"/> win       | <input type="checkbox"/> understand     | <input type="checkbox"/> forgive  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> run         | <input type="checkbox"/> reconcile | <input type="checkbox"/> resolve        | <input type="checkbox"/> confront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heal        | <input type="checkbox"/> get even  | <input type="checkbox"/> protect rights | <input type="checkbox"/> be fair  |

## PART II. THE PAST

A. CONFESSION. (Read Psalms 51:1-17; 34:14-18; I Corinthians 4:4; James 5:16.)

1. What offenses or wrongs have caused or contributed to this conflict or broken relationship?

2. What actions of yours have contributed to starting or continuing this conflict?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Have you made any promises to the other party that you have not kept? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What expectations have the other party had of you that have gone unfulfilled? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Have you risked confession to God, or to those with whom you have hurt or offended?  
 Yes  No. If no, why not?

B. FORGIVENESS. (Read Matthew 5:22; 6:14-15; 18:21-35; Mark 11:25; Ephesians 4:25-32.)

1. Define forgiveness.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How important is it that you forgive others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If God forgave you according to how much you forgive, how forgiven would you be?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In this conflict, what actions of others need forgiveness from you.

**PART III. THE FUTURE.**

**A. JUSTICE.** (Read Matthew 20:1-16; 23:23; Luke 12:13-21; 18:1-8; Romans 3:21-26)

1. Whose side is God on in this dispute or conflict? Explain.
  
2. What do you really want from the other party?
  
3. Why would your desires or proposal be fair?
  
4. What would you say to convince the other party that your desires are not selfish?
  
5. How difficult would it be for the other party to grant your desires?
  
6. What is the worst that could result if you don't get your desires?
  
7. What would ultimate justice (God's will) be in this case?

**B. BURDEN BEARING.** (Read Matthew 5:43-44; 7:12; Luke 10:25-37; I Corinthians 13:4-7; Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:4; I John 3:16-18; 4:12-21.)

1. How important to you is satisfying the needs and interests of the other party?

2. What could you do in this conflict to treat others as you want to be treated?
  
3. What burden or need does the other party have that you would be willing to help bear?

C. RECONCILIATION. (Read Matthew 5:23-24; II Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 2:11-22.)

1. Visualize you and the other party both appearing before God the Father with Jesus holding hands with each of you. What would you expect to happen?
  
2. What prevents resolution of the conflict or reconciliation between you and the other party(ies) from taking place?
  
3. What would have to change for resolution or reconciliation to occur or good will to be restored?

#### PART IV. READY FOR PEACEMAKING?

I am willing to (check those that apply):

- listen to the other party without interrupting.
- be defrauded to avoid a lawsuit.
- "lose" if that will mean God will be honored.
- be open to the discovery that I am partly at fault.
- risk forgiveness and confession.
- for God's will to be done, not mine.
- acknowledge my feelings and to confront honestly with truth and love.
- treat the interests of the other party as important as my own.
- help shoulder financial burdens of the other party.
- work cooperatively for a mutually satisfying solution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_