

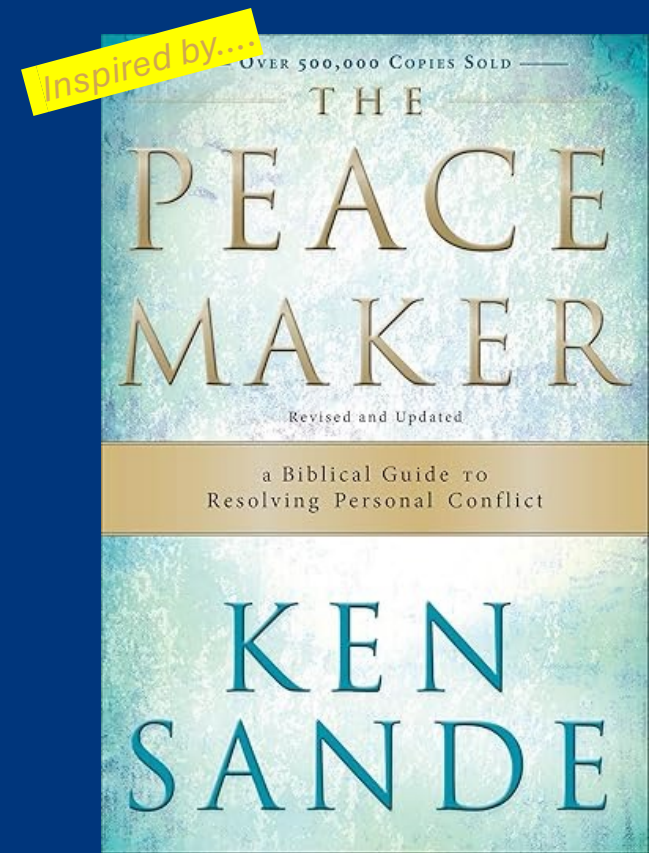
# Equipped for Conflict

1. Peace is made.
2. Peacemaking begins in me.
3. Peacemaking begins with recognizing and reconciling my own doubleminded sin.
4. Most conflict can be resolved either within me or with a gentle conversation centered on scripture.
5. Pursuing peace. Some will refuse peace.

# April 11 Spring Workshop

Relational Wisdom &  
Relational Peacemaking

Save the date



# Ken Sande – 4 Gs

Join us as we unpack the 4 Gs of Biblical peace making:



Glory to God



Get the log out of your own eye



Gently restore



Go and be reconciled

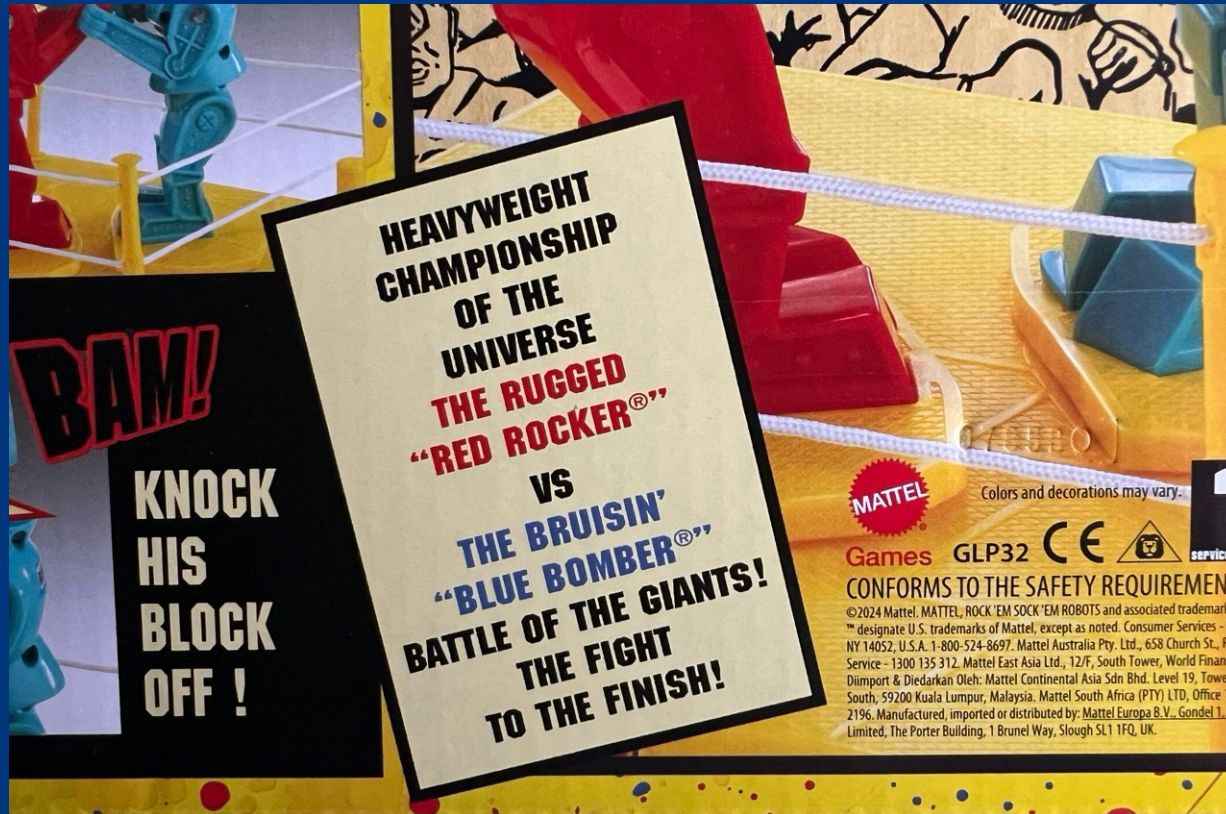


# Pursuing Peace

a.k.a. “Extreme Peace-Making”

Equipped for Conflict – Part 5





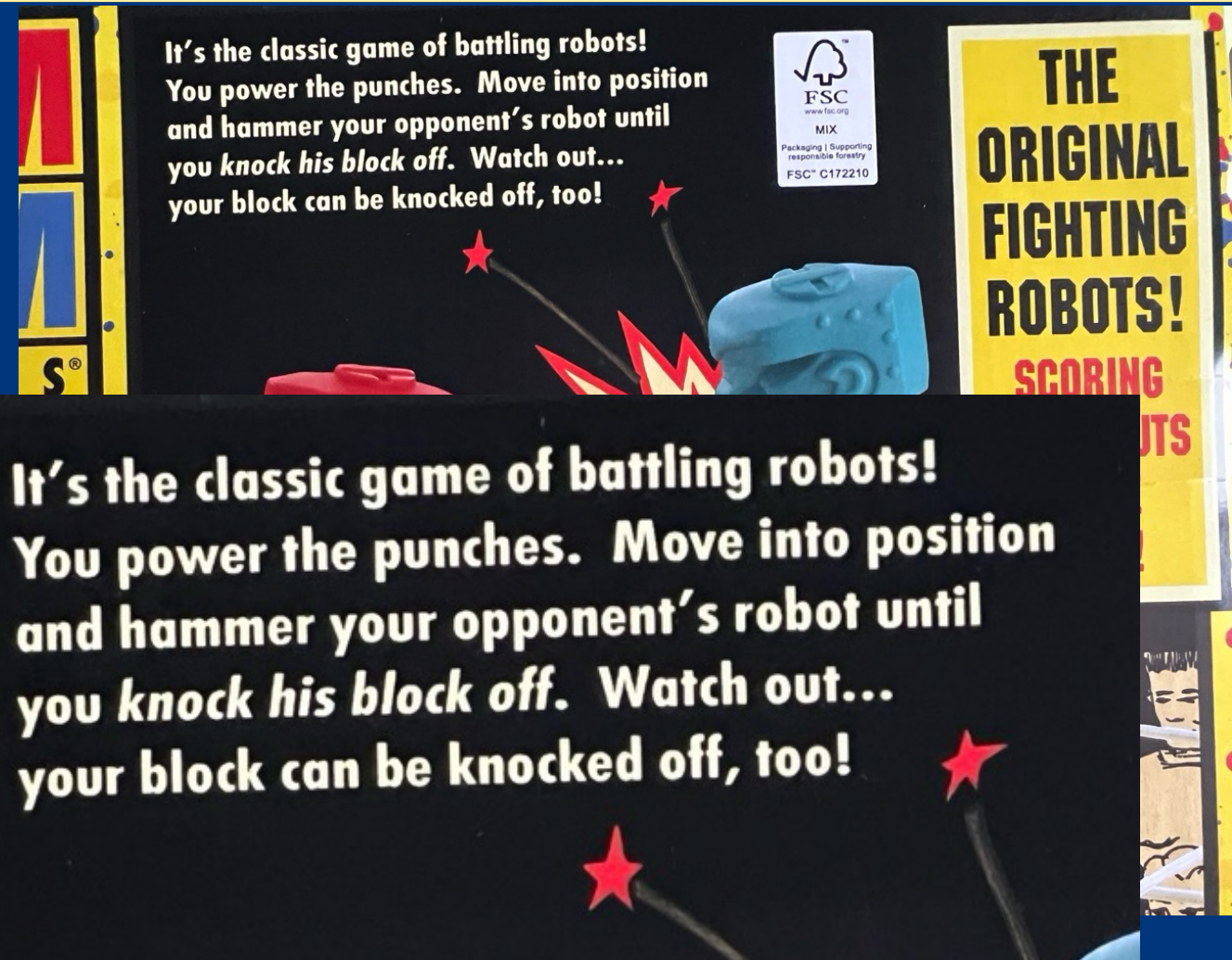


# Demonstration

*Photobooth*



Galatians 5:15  
But if you bite  
and devour  
one another,  
watch out that  
you are not  
consumed by  
one another.





# BITE & DEVOUR

If you bite & devour one another  
Galatians 5:15

Biblical Principles for Handling Conflict

Alexander Strauch



IF YOU  
BITE  
&  
DEVOUR  
ONE ANOTHER  
Galatians 5:15

*Biblical Principles  
for Handling Conflict*

ALEXANDER STRAUCH

# Disclaimer

We are hiking some rough territory today

We will speak in incomplete generalities, YMMV, discernment required

Seek counsel during peace-making challenges

# Points

- Do your best to live at peace with everyone
- Some will refuse peace
- Discern who you're working with: wise foolish evil
- The sinful are self-condemned
- Justice is accountability for sin
- Beware the victim-flip-justice-protest a.k.a. toxic empathy
- Don't shortcut the process



# Peace with others is a two-way street

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:18

Romans 14:19 Hebrews 12:14 2 Corinthians 13:11

**Some will refuse peace.**



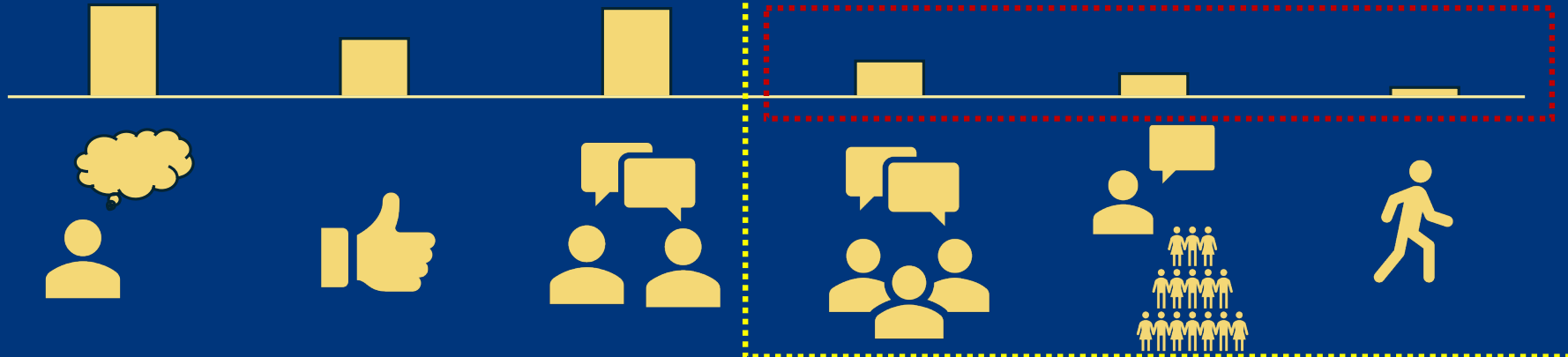
# The progression of peace making

Matthew 7:5	Proverbs 19:11 Proverbs 20:3	Matthew 18:15 Matthew 5:23-24	Matthew 18:16	Matthew 18:17a	Matthew 18:17b
Get the log out	Overlook?	Go and be reconciled	Witnesses	Awareness	"Tax Collector" mode
Self	Self	Alone	One or two others	Church	Church
Wise	Wise	Wise	Wise/Foolish/Evil	Foolish / Evil	Foolish / Evil



# The progression of peace making

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## Matthew 18:15-17

*Greek: akouo - hear*

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

# Why would he listen?

Wise, Foolish, Evil

Proverbs 9:7-9; 10:17; 12:1; 15:5; 15:31-32; 17:10; 19:25; 25:11-12; 27:5-6; 28:23

# Listening

Proverbs 25:11-12

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.  
Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.



# Proverbs, wise

*“understanding” - the wise “get it”*

reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life,  
Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,  
but whoever heeds reproof is prudent.

The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.  
he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.

A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding  
than a hundred blows into a fool.

reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.

## Matthew 18:15-17

If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

## 2 Timothy 2:22–26

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

# To rebuke or not? Lead with gentleness.

1 Timothy 5:1-3

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

1 Timothy 5:20

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

## James 3

[13] Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ... [18] And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.





**The wise are quick to listen  
and repent.**

## Matthew 18:16–17

But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

# Why would he not listen? Why would he refuse?

Wise, Foolish, Evil

Proverbs 9:7-9; 10:17; 12:1; 15:5; 15:31-32; 17:10; 19:25; 25:11-12; 27:5-6; 28:23

# Freidman's Fables & A Failure of Nerve

by Edwin Freidman

The colossal misunderstanding of our time is the assumption that insight will work with people who are unmotivated to change.

The unmotivated are notoriously invulnerable to insight.

# Proverbs, fool

he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

he who hates reproof is stupid.

A fool despises his father's instruction,

Whoever ignores instruction despises himself,

A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding  
than a hundred blows into a fool.



# Rebuke the persistent sinner

1 Timothy 5:20

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.

# Rebuke false doctrine

Titus 1:9

He (*an elder*) must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

*See also Titus 1:13 & Titus 2:15*

# The fool is slow to listen and might repent.

Discernment zone: When to escalate?

How long to wrestle the pig? The pig enjoys it, and you get muddy.

“Invulnerable to insight...”

## Matthew 18:16–17

But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

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## Romans 8:7–8

For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

*everything we read about conflict vs peace ends up at selfish vs selfless, sin is selfish, that is Satan's primary scheme*

# Don't be a scoffer...

Matthew 5:21-24 *"knock his block off"*

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



## Psalm 1:1-2

The wise and the evil are very different

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;  
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.

# Proverbs, scoffer, wicked

Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself **abuse**,  
and he who reproves a wicked man incurs **injury**.  
Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will **hate** you;  
Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence;

Proverbs 21:10

The soul of the wicked desires evil;  
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.





# Discernment zone

*Jesus warns about confronting evil people, much like Proverbs.*

*Discern who you're dealing with: wise, foolish, evil  
"dogs" is a common metaphor for evil doers.*

*Don't waste gentleness and sincerity on the evil.*

Matthew 7:5-6

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.

Do not give **dogs** what is **holy**,  
and do not throw your **pearls** before **pigs**,  
lest they trample them underfoot and turn to **attack** you.

# The evil will neither listen nor repent.

Proceed with caution when dealing with the evil

Appeal to a higher authority as necessary

Applies especially to extreme cases of abuse and crime

They may flee accountability or even turn around to sue you

**Someone bent on their flesh is not at peace with God, themselves, or you.**

Take a number. It's not about you.

That person has problems, and you are just one of many.

# What happens when God reproves the wicked?

Exodus 34

They have finally landed on justice, not clearing the guilty

# View from the wicked

Proverbs 3:34

Toward the scorners he is scornful,  
but to the humble he gives favor/grace.

Proverbs 19:3

When a man's folly brings his way to ruin,  
his heart rages against the LORD.

Psalms 18:25-27

With the merciful you show yourself merciful;  
with the blameless man you show yourself  
blameless;  
with the purified you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you make yourself  
seem tortuous.  
For you save a humble people,  
but the haughty eyes you bring down.

## Titus 1:15-16

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

# Justice: Joy & Terror

Proverbs 21:15

When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

# So if they refuse to listen, what do we do?

How do we make peace?

Remove the disease. John Chrysostom 407AD



## Matthew 18:16–17

But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

# Self-condemned

Titus 3:10-11

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

## Victim flip justice protest? Fair? Separation.

*Cain refused God's direct warning. Cain chose consequences.  
God made peace for Adam and Eve.*

Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me."

Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.    Genesis 4:13-16



# Romans 12:14-21

## The lifestyle of extreme peace making

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

# The process of leaving

*"Left foot of fellowship"*

*"I'm done."*

*"I'm out of here."*

*Cancelled*

*Vengeance*

*Exception: evil abuse*

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# Some refuse peace

There are people who refuse peace. That is their choice not ours.

We must reject the cultural narrative of toxic empathy of our day and embrace a true understanding of justice.

Do we really cut people off or shun them? This has a woke oppressor spin usually when it is discussed. If we follow due process as Jesus outlined, and this individual refuses to repent and submit to God, they will only continue to cause conflict, and the definition of peacemaking is to remove the disease. The person who refuses to submit to God has made this choice, not us. It is entirely within their power to determine the outcome, and they can repent and humble themselves to be restored to fellowship. So they are the ones who made the decision. We choose to live at peace as much as we can with all people. Haman in the book of Esther was a wicked man with no intention of ever changing. That is an extreme case, but these are usually cases of people who formerly walked with us in worship, which makes it more difficult when as it says in 2nd Timothy, they've been captured by Satan to do his will, and we want to see them free. Justice must be enforced.

If anyone chooses to shun someone and shortcut this due process that Jesus outlined, then yes, that is an evil deed. In our competitive victimhood society, people side with Cain in Genesis 4 when he told God that his punishment was too great for him to bear. It was entirely Cain's fault when he did not extend the same mercy to others that God had extended to him.

We must reject the cultural narrative of our day and embrace a true understanding of justice.

We each are accountable for our own sin, not the sin of others. We are accountable for following the process outlined in scripture. The choice is up to the offender. Jesus repeatedly says "IF HE REFUSES". It is the offender's choice to refuse peace and receive the consequences.



# Got an example?

How does the Apostle Paul do “tax collector mode”?

How about a foolish lazy church member who mooches off of everyone

## 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16

[6] Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. [7] For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, [8] nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. [9] It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. [10] For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.



## 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16

[11] For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. [12] Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

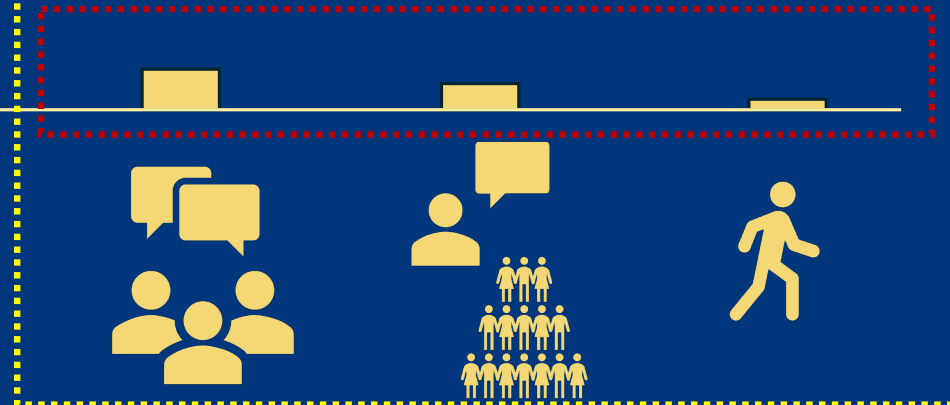
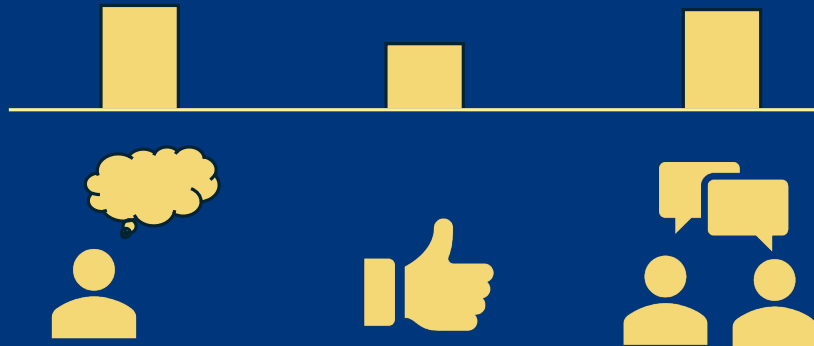
[13] As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. [14] If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. [15] Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

*THEN OUR BENEDICTION FOR THE SERIES*

[16] Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

# The progression of peace making

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- Some will refuse peace
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- Don't shortcut the process



Prayer

# Benediction

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.