



PEACE-FAKING Escape Responses	PEACE-MAKING Reconciliation Responses	PEACE-BREAKING Attack Responses
<p>More interested in avoiding conflict than in resolving it.</p> <p>Denial — Pretend that a problem does not exist or refuse to do what should be done to resolve a conflict properly. This may bring temporary relief but often grows worse over time (1 Sam. 2:22-25).</p> <p>Flight — Run away from a problem by alienating people: friends, spouses, churches, siblings. Flight may be necessary for safety reasons (1 Sam. 19:9-10) but in most cases it only delays a proper solution to a problem.</p> <p>Self-Injury — Loss of hope to resolve a conflict usually results in bringing pain to self through immorality, abuse of medications, alcohol, drugs, even suicide (1 Sam. 31:4).</p>	<p>Six ways to respond biblically and to find resolution:</p> <p><u>Private Peace-Making:</u></p> <p>Overlook Offense — Some conflicts can be resolved by quietly overlooking an offense and forgiving the person who has wronged you (Prov. 19:11; 12:16; 17:14; 1 Pe. 4:8).</p> <p>Discussion — Resolution through confession or loving confrontation (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15; Prov. 28:13; Gal. 6:1-3).</p> <p>Negotiation — Issues related to money, property, and other rights can be resolved by negotiating solutions for the good of all (Phil. 2:4; Dan. 1:1-16; Matt. 7:12).</p> <p><u>Assisted Peace-Making:</u></p> <p>Mediation — Bring another person along to help resolve conflict and explore solutions if the conflict cannot be resolved through private peace-making (Matt. 18:16).</p> <p>Arbitration — Arbitrators can be appointed to listen to both sides and render a binding decision about substantive issues (1 Cor. 6:1-9).</p> <p>Discipline — If a Christian refuses to be reconciled, the church leaders should formally intervene to promote justice, repentance and forgiveness (Matt. 18:17-20). Removal from the church during obstinate response.</p>	<p>More interested in winning than in preserving relationship.</p> <p>Assault — Use of various forms of force: verbal attacks (gossip, complaining, slander), physical threats, financial threats, professional abuse (Acts 6:8-15). Always makes conflict worse.</p> <p>Litigation — Conflicts taken to a civil judge for a decision (Rom. 13:1-5). Usually damages relationship without gaining justice. Christians are to seek to settle out of court (Matt. 5:25-26; 1 Cor. 6:1-8).</p> <p>Murder — The attempt to bring harm to the other person opposing them (Acts 7:54-58). We are guilty of murder when we harbor anger and contempt in our hearts for others (Matt. 5:21-22).</p>