



- Biblical Peacemaking
- Applying the Gospel to **Conflicts** of Daily Life



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Section One

Introduction



In this section

- The Nature of Conflict
- The Hope and Impact of the Gospel
- An Introduction to Peacemaking



Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God



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THE NATURE OF CONFLICT

The Gasoline...

Our sinful nature:

“What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you? You want something but don’t get it. You kill and covet” (James 4:1).

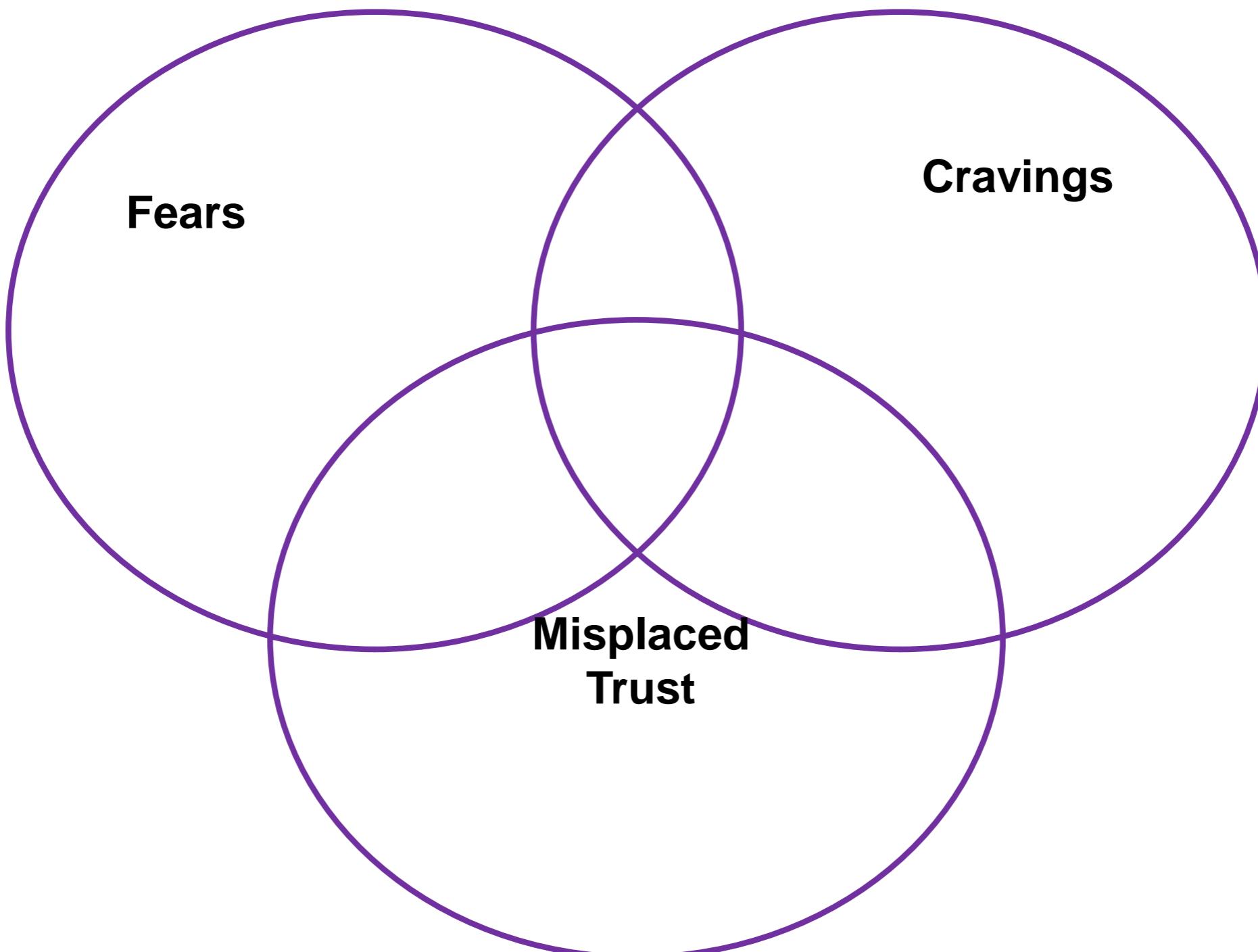
The Spark...

- God-given diversity
- Differences in preferences and priorities (normal, expected)
- Misunderstandings (normal, expected)

The seduction of the world’s culture

“You deserve it”
“Look out for #1”
“Assert your rights”
“Don’t get mad, get even”





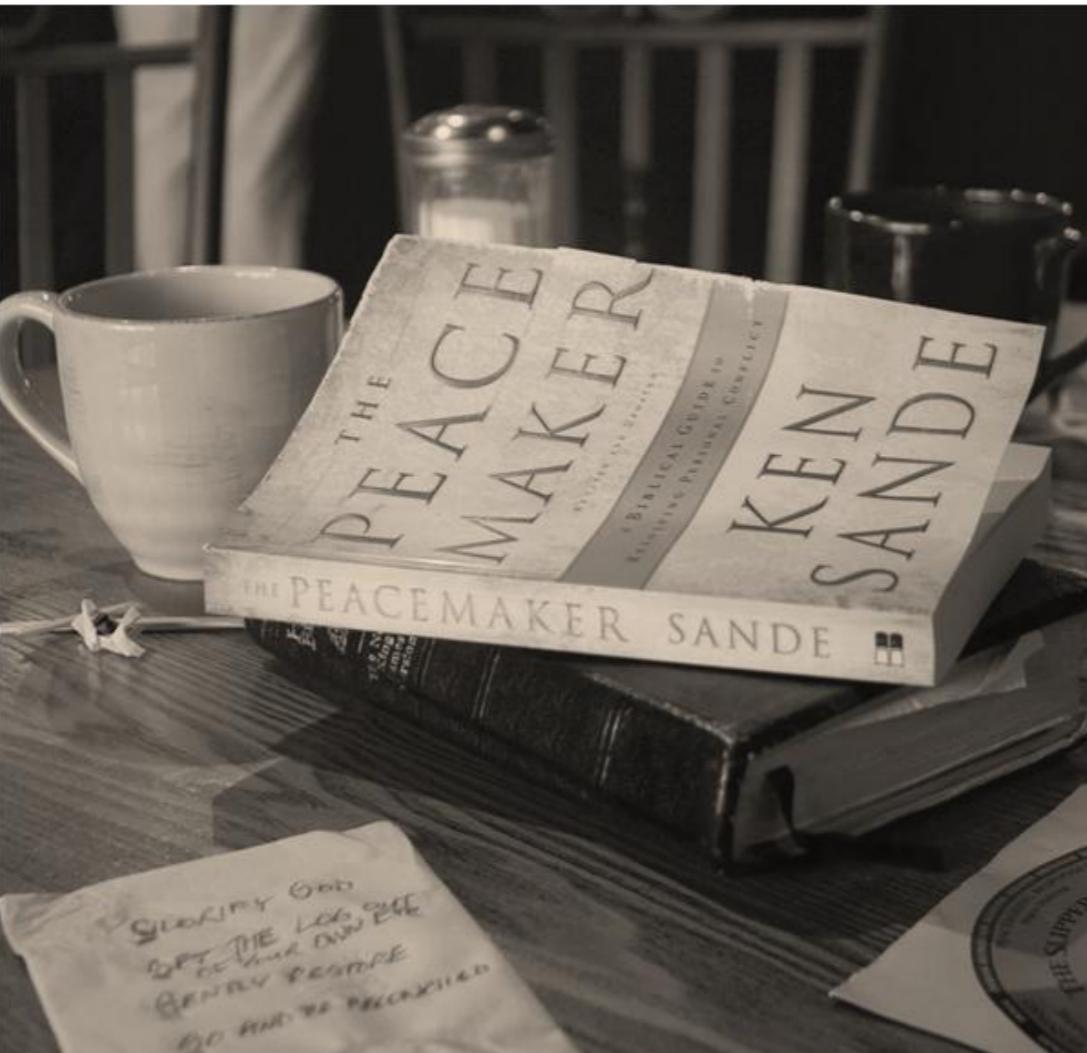
THE NATURE OF CONFLICT

The Fire

- Smoldering gossip, complaining, back-biting, judging, & unforgiveness
- Thousands of Christians leave the church due to unresolved conflict
- 35.5% divorce rate in the church, slightly ahead of the world
- Other broken family and friend relationships
- Christians spend over \$20 billion annually on litigation



The “Four G’s” of Peacemaking



In this section

- Glorify God
- Get the Log Out of Your Eye
- Gently Restore
- Go and Be Reconciled





The First G Glorify God

How can I please and
honor God in this situation?



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What is Conflict?

A difference in an opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.



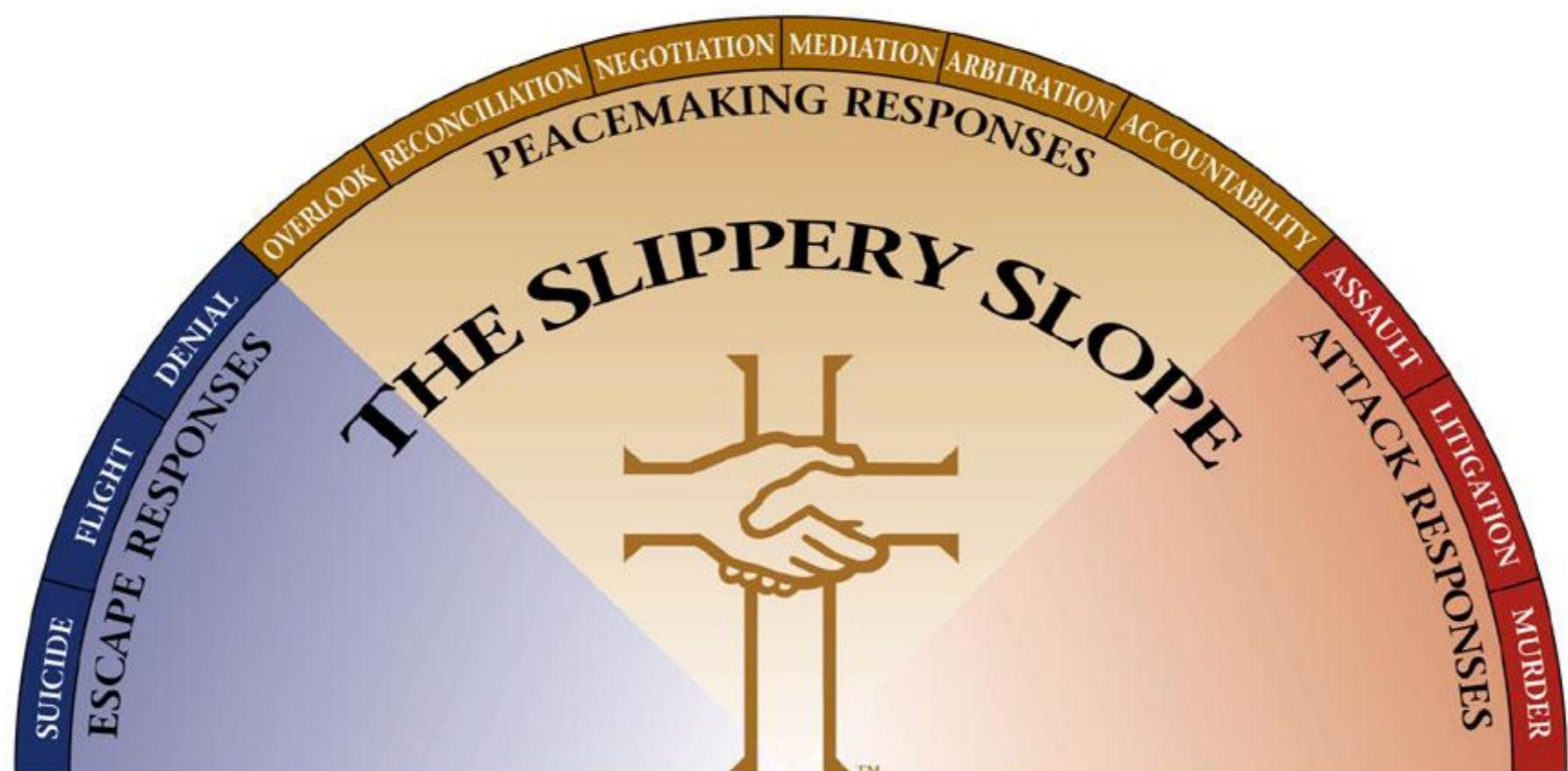
What causes conflict?

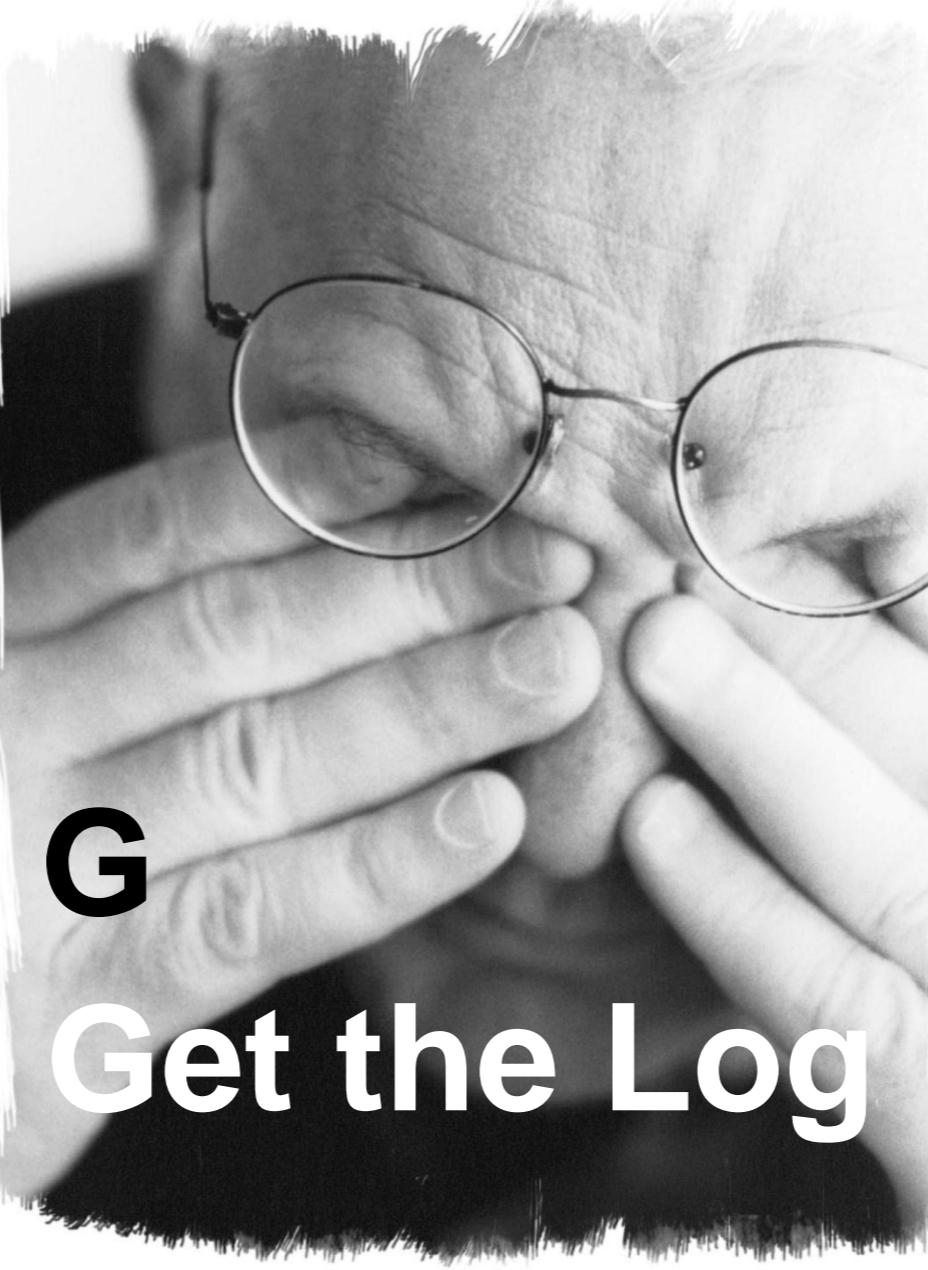
- Misunderstandings (Josh. 22:10-34)
- Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinions (Acts 15:39, I Cor. 12:12-31)
- Competition over limited resources (Gen. 13:1-12)
- Sinful attitudes and desires that lead to sinful words and actions (James 4:1-4)



Bring Glory to God by Being a Peacemaker

How do people typically
respond to conflict?





The Second G

Get the Log Out of Your

Eye



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How can I show Jesus' work in me
by taking responsibility for my
contribution to the conflict?

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Proverbs 27:19

As in water face reflects
face, so the heart of man
reflects man.



How can I get to the heart of my conflicts?

Matthew 7:1-6
Participants Guide –
Page 22



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Unconfessed and unforgiven sin obscures my vision!

Matthew 7:5 “...first take the log out of your own eye, and **then you will see clearly** to remove the speck from your brothers eye.”



Discovering my heart idols begins with what I desire!

James 4:1 “What causes the fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?”



When desire is elevated to demand an idol is talking!

James 4:2 “**You want something** but don’t get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight.”



The Progression of an Idol!

Participants Guide –
Page 23-24



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Making a Good Confession:

Participants Guide – Page

25

Proverbs 28:13 “He who conceals his sins does not prosper; but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”



The 7 A's of Confession:

Address everyone involved
Avoid if, but, maybe
Admit specifically



Slippery Slope of Idolatry

Desires: "*I would like to have...*" (*Psalm 37:4*)

Demands: "*I must have...*" (*James 4:1*)

Expectations: "*You will give me...*" (*Romans 13:14*)

Disappointment: "*You did not give me my desires...*"
(*Gen. 4:6-7*)

Judgment: "*Because you did not give me my desires, you are...*" (*Rom. 14:10*)

Punishment: "*Because you didn't, I will...*" (*Rom. 12:19*)



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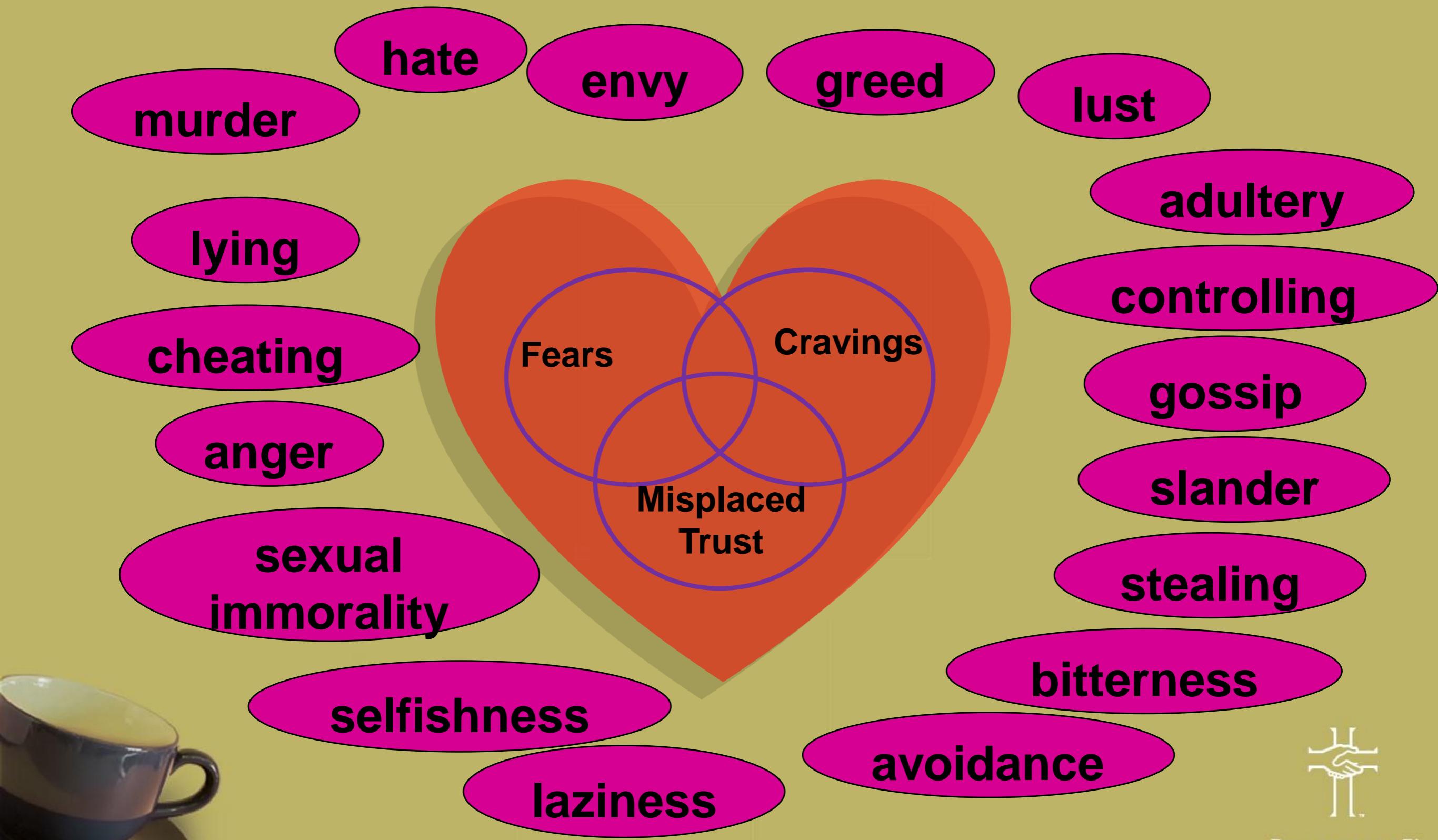
Why Idols? They motivate us!

1. Anytime we sin ...
2. Something other than the true God is ruling our heart ...
3. So we are violating the 1st commandment
....
4. And the result is ...



Conflict Coaching & Mediation Training

Idols are at the Heart



Contrasting the idols

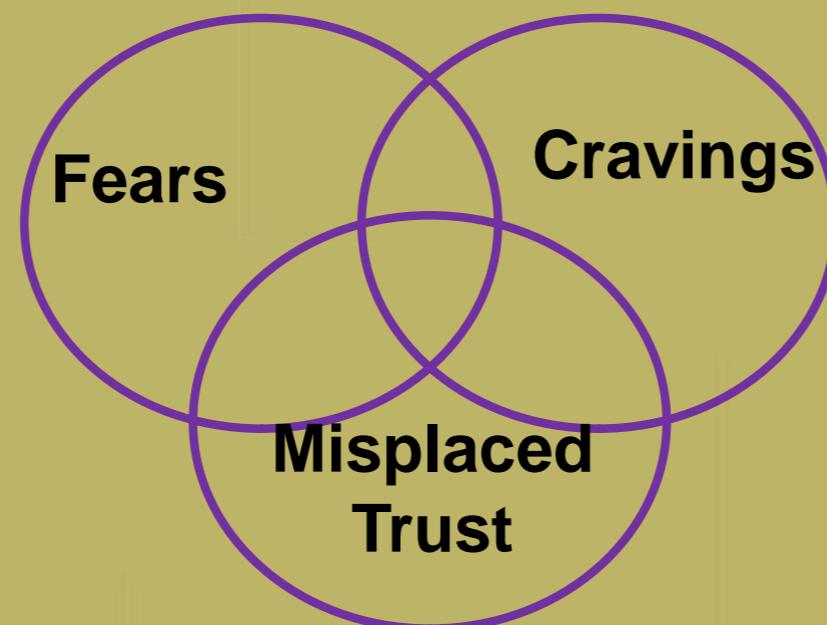
- **Fears**
- Fears, anxiety, worry, desperation
- “I’m afraid that ...”

Cravings

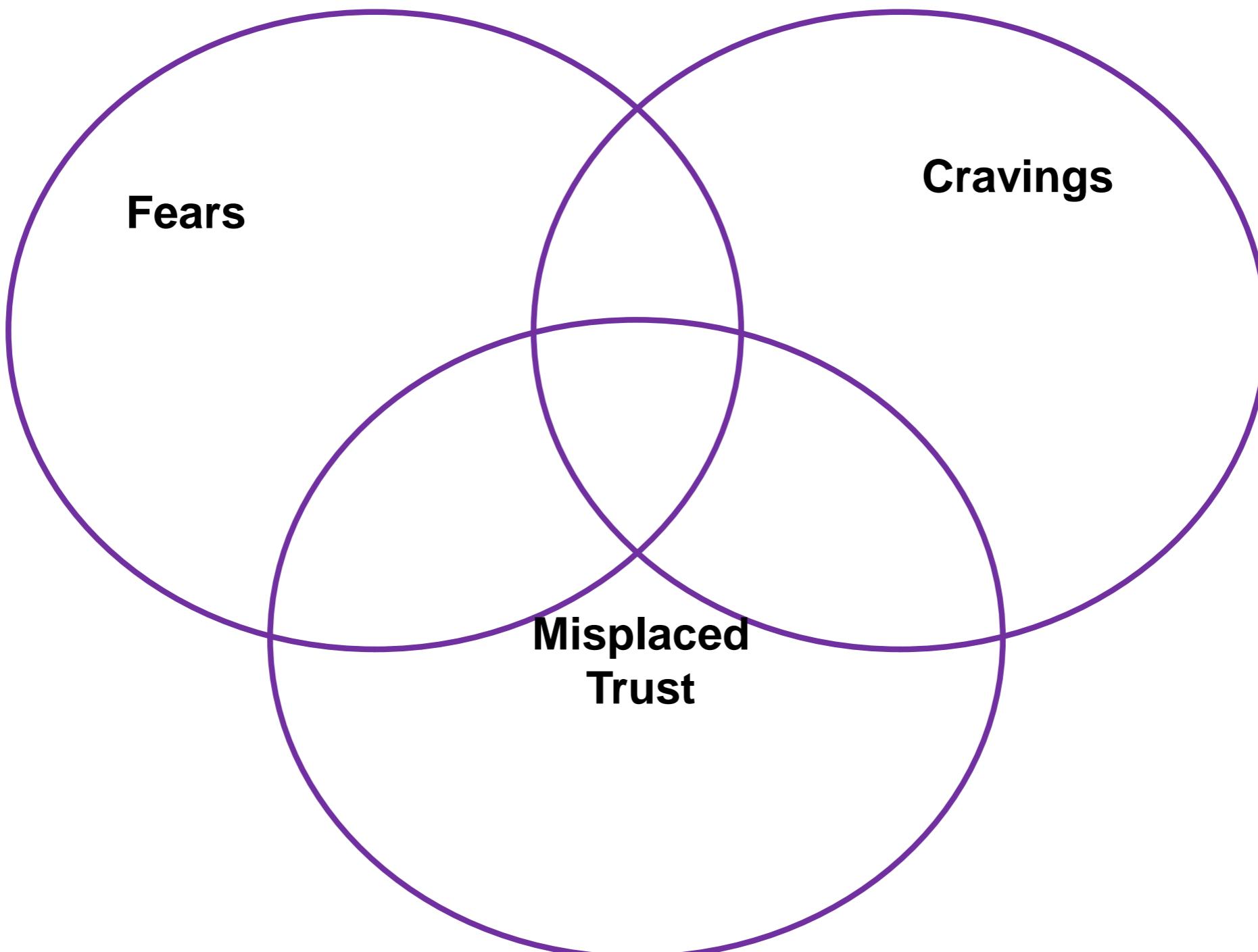
- Desires that grow to demands
- “All I want is ...”

Misplaced Trust

- Prideful, condescending or judgmental attitude
- “I think that you ...”



Conflict Coaching & Mediation Training



Faith and Trust Rescues us from The Slippery Slope of Idolatry

Progression of an idol

- Desire
- ↓
- Demand
- ↓
- Expectation
- ↓
- Disappointment
- ↓
- Judgment
- ↓
- Punishment



Progression of Trust with God in a Conflict

- Desire
- ↓
- Delight/Worship
- ↓
- Perspective
- ↓
- Disappointment
- ↓
- Charitable Judgment
- ↓
- Reconciliation

The 7 A's of Confession:

Address everyone involved

Avoid if, but, maybe

Admit specifically

Acknowledge the hurt

Accept the consequences

Alter your behavior

Ask for forgiveness



Two sides of expressing sorrow:

1. To apologize I must talk.
2. To acknowledge hurt I must listen.



Godly sorrow:

Rooted in II Corinthians 7
Produces earnest effort
Results in changed
relationships



Pause for thought and prayer:

In 2's ask: of all the 7 A's,
the "A" I struggle with the
most is..."

Pray for the other person





The

Third G

Gently
Restore

How can I lovingly serve others by helping them take responsibility for their contribution to this conflict?

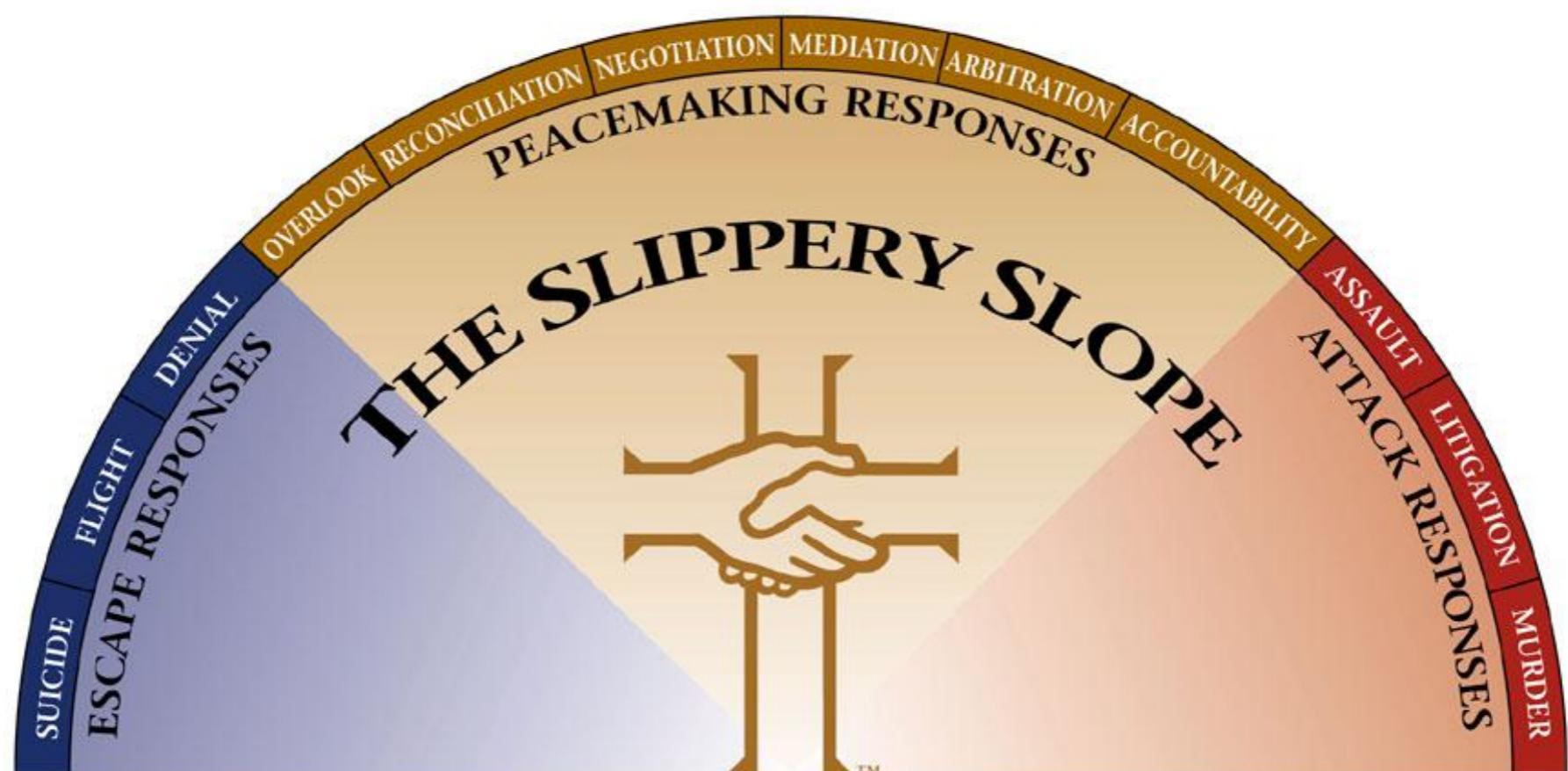


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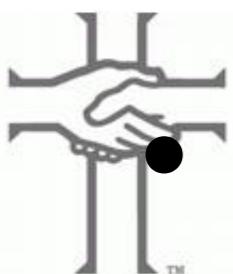
Bring Glory to God by Being a Peacemaker

How do people typically
respond to conflict?



When do we go? When someone's sins are too serious to overlook:

- Is it dishonoring God?
- Has it damaged your relationship?
- Is it hurting other people (or you)?
- Is it hurting the offender?



When you need to negotiate, **PAUSE**

- Prepare
- Affirm Relationships
- Understand Interests
- Search for creative solutions
- Evaluate options objectively and reasonably



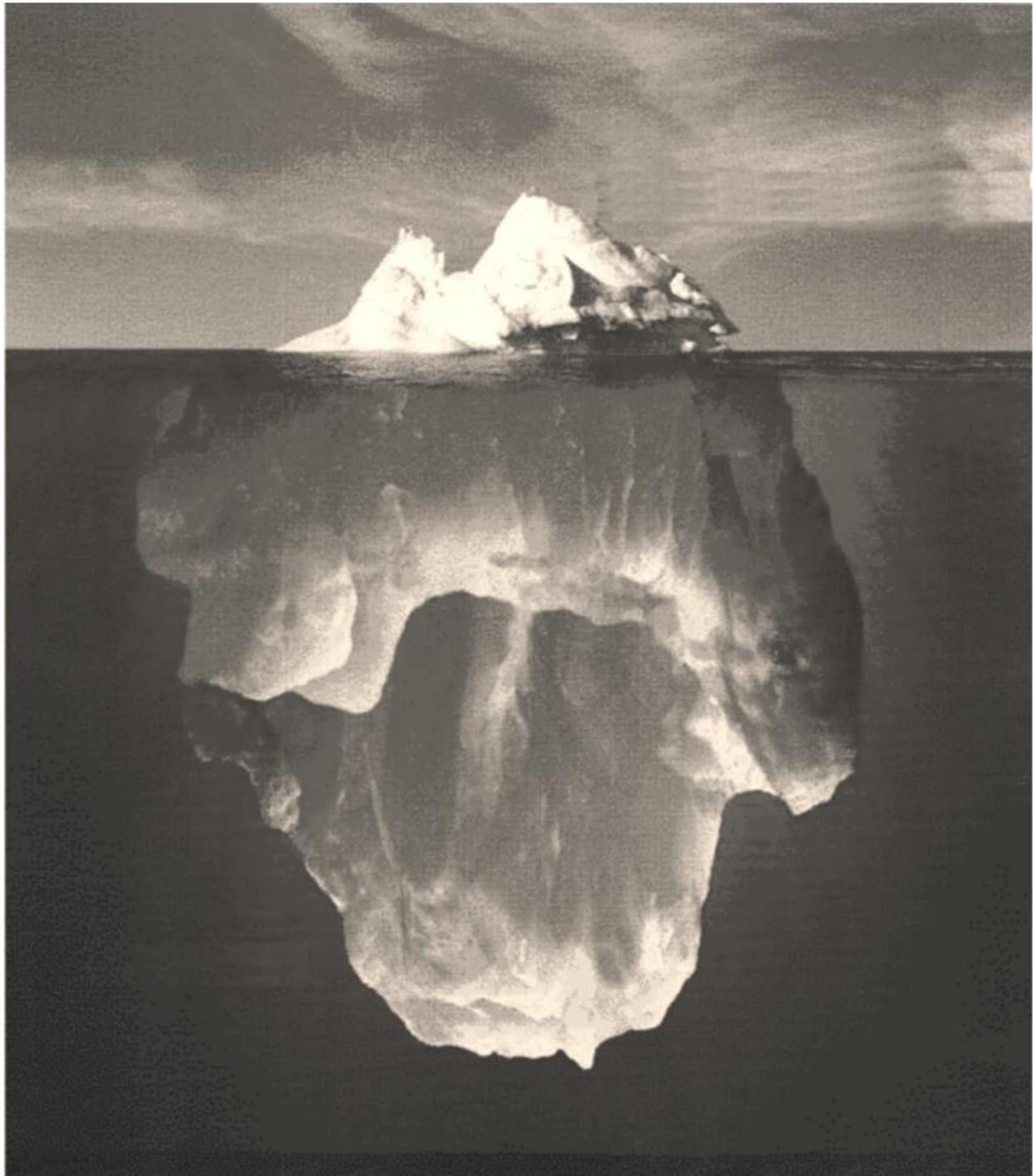
Understand Interests

- Issue - an identifiable question
- Position - a desired outcome
- Interest - what motivates people
- Successful negotiation occurs when parties negotiate on the interest level





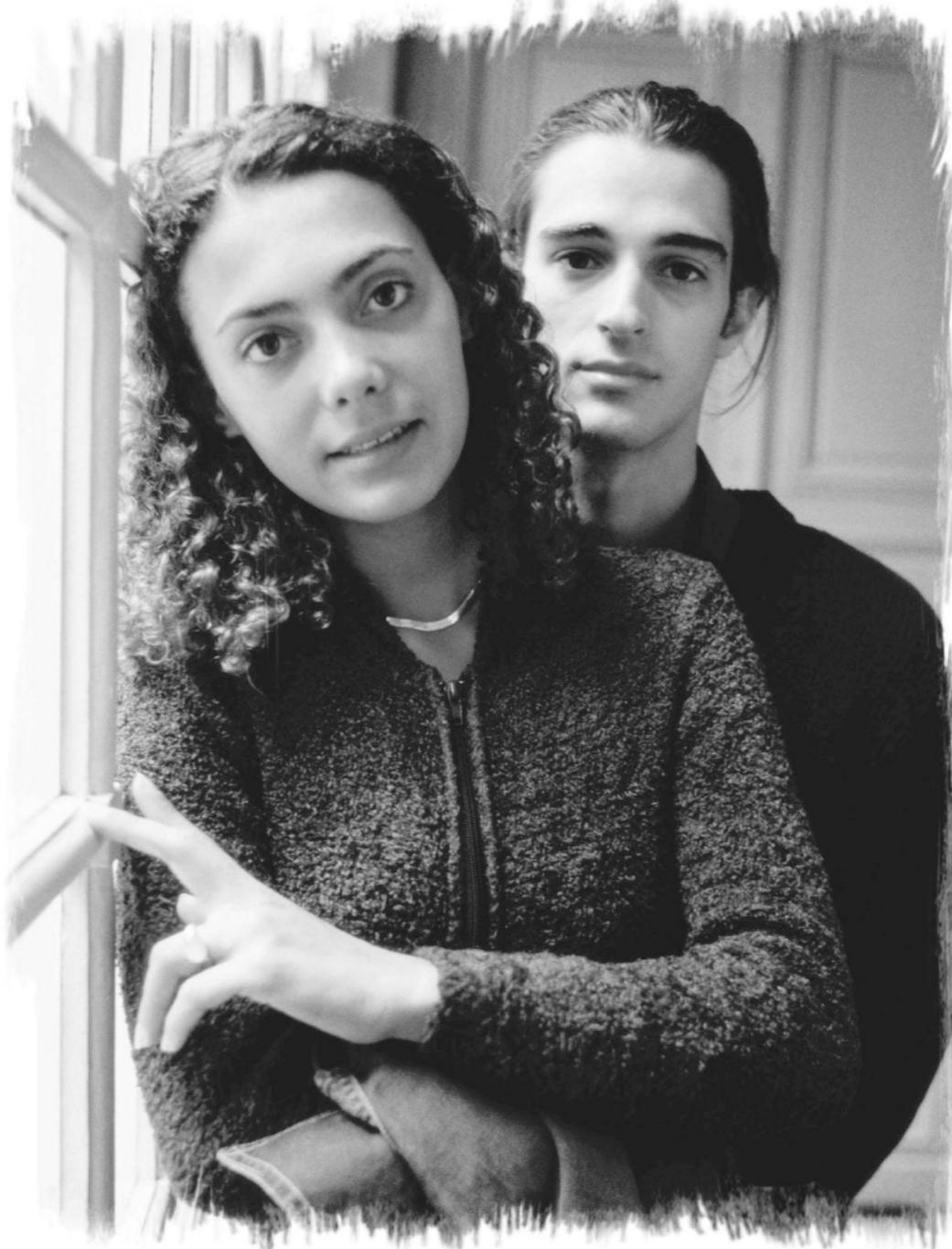
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The Fourth G



Go and Be Reconciled



How can I demonstrate the
forgiveness of God and encourage a
reasonable solution to this conflict?

Forgiveness is a decision to make four promises

- I will not dwell on this incident
- I will not bring this incident up and use it against you
- I will not talk to others about this incident
- I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship



Section
Three

Church on a Journey



In this section

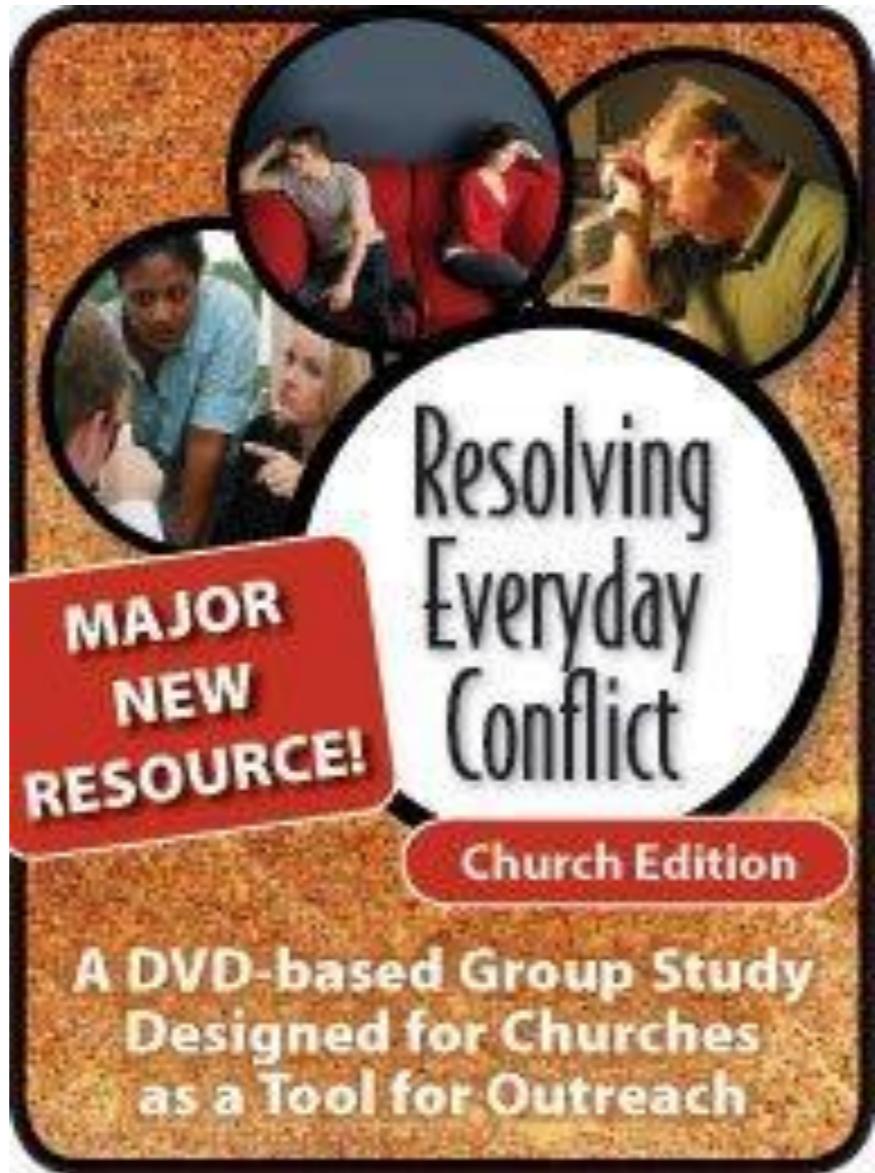
- The Peacemaking Church Resource Set
- A New Idea: Peacemaking Teams
- For Further Study

A New Idea: Peacemaking Teams



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