

COMMITMENT TO PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will
be called sons of God (Matt. 5:9).*

Calvary Memorial Church is committed to building a "culture of peace" that reflects God's peace and the power of the gospel of Christ in our lives. Any attempt to seek unity and peace in the Body of Christ must first begin with an understanding of the source of divisions. Conflict begins with a desire to please ourselves and not seek after God's best for us (James 4:1-4). As we stand in the light of the cross, we realize that bitterness, unforgiveness, and broken relationships are not acceptable for the people whom God has reconciled to Himself through the sacrifice of His only Son (John 13:34-35; Eph. 4:29-32; Col. 3:12-14).

We want to respond to conflict in a way that will honor God, promote justice, reconcile relationships, and preserve our witness for Christ. We are committed to actively teaching and encouraging one another to live out the following principles:

Personal Peacemaking

- Whenever we are faced with conflict, our primary goal will be to glorify God with our thoughts, words, and actions (1 Cor. 10:31).
- We will try to get the "logs" out of our own eyes before focusing on what others may have done wrong (Matt. 7:3-5).
- We will seek to overlook minor offenses (Prov. 19:11).
- We will refrain from all gossip, backbiting and slander (Eph. 4:29). If we have a problem with others, our goal will be to talk *to* them, not *about* them.
- We will make "charitable judgments" toward one another by believing the best about others unless we have facts that prove otherwise (1 Cor. 13:7).
- If an offense is too serious to overlook, or if we think someone may have something against us, we will go promptly to seek reconciliation (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15).
- When we offer a word of correction to others, we will do so graciously and gently, with the goal of serving and restoring them. (Prov. 12:18; Eph. 4:29; Gal. 6:1).
- When someone tries to correct us, we will ask God to help us resist prideful defensiveness and to welcome correction with humility (Ps. 141:5; Prov. 15:32).
- When others repent, we will ask God to give us grace to forgive (and restore) them as He has forgiven us (Eph. 4:32).
- When we discuss or negotiate substantive issues, we will consider others' interests, as well as our own (Phil. 2:3-4).

Assisted Peacemaking

- When two of us cannot resolve a conflict privately, we will seek the mediation of wise people in Calvary Memorial Church and listen humbly to their counsel (Matt. 18:16; Phil. 4:2-3). If our dispute is with a church leader, we will look to other church leaders for assistance.
- When informal mediation does not resolve a dispute, we will seek formal assistance from Calvary Memorial Church leaders or others they appoint, and we will submit to their counsel and correction (Matt. 18:17-20).
- When we have a business or legal dispute with another Christian, we will make every reasonable effort to resolve the conflict within the body of Christ through biblical mediation or arbitration, rather than going to civil court (1 Cor. 6:1-8). If the other party attends another church, our leaders will offer and make a good faith effort to cooperate with the leaders of that church to resolve the matter.
- If a person coming to Calvary Memorial Church has an unresolved conflict with someone in his or her former church, or is under discipline from that church, we will require and assist him or her to make every reasonable effort to be reconciled to the other person before joining Calvary Memorial Church (Matt. 5:23-24; Rom. 12:18).
- When a conflict involves matters of doctrine or church discipline, we will submit to the procedures set forth in our *Commitment to Accountability and Church Discipline* (see page 7).
- If we have a legal dispute with or within Calvary Memorial Church and cannot resolve it internally through the steps given above, we will obey God's command not to go into the civil court with a true Christian brother or sister (1 Cor. 6:1-8).
- Above all, we pray that our ministry of peacemaking will bring praise to our Lord Jesus Christ and lead others to know His infinite love and peace.