

HEALTHY & UNHEALTHY CONFLICT RESOLUTION*



Peace-Faking	Peace-Making	Peace-Breaking
Suicide: When people lose all hope of resolving a problem. Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem (see 1 Samuel 31:4).	Overlook: Is it worth fighting over? (see Proverbs 19:11; 1 Peter 4:8).	Assault: Use of force or intimidation physically, emotionally, mentally, verbally, financially, professionally, etc. (see Acts 6:8-15).
Flight: Running away only postpones the conflict. At some point in time, you will need to solve the problem (see Genesis 16:6-8).	Reconciliation: Approach the person who has hurt you gently, lovingly, and respectfully. Resolve the problem with confession, correction, & forgiveness (Matthew 5:23-24).	Litigation: Taking people to court (see Acts 24:1-26:32).
Denial: Pretending the problem does not exist makes matters worse because you cannot suppress anger forever (see 1 Samuel 2:22-25).	Negotiation: We seek to resolve relational & material issues that are beneficial to both sides (see Matthew 18:15-20).	Murder: In extreme cases, people kill those who dare to oppose their will (see Acts 7:54-58).
	Mediation: If negotiation is not successful, we bring in a neutral 3rd party to open the doors to effective communication, & to offer possible solutions to resolving the conflict (Matthew 18:16).	
	Arbitration: When negotiation & mediation have failed, the conflicting persons agree to arbitration. They agree to resolve the conflict based on the arbiter's ruling (1 Corinthians 6:1-8).	
	Accountability: If the offending person refuses to do what is right, then you must hold them accountable for their actions. The purpose of accountability is to promote reconciliation, justice, & forgiveness (Matthew 18:17).	

* Kenneth Sande. *The Peacemaker: A Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, 3rd Edition. Baker Books. Grand Rapids, MI. 2004. (Pgs. 22-26).