

## Peacemaker's Goal

**To glorify God, love others and grow to be like Christ by resolving conflict God's way.**

## Peacemaking Facts

- **Conflict is expected** due to (1) our God-given differences, (2) our mistakes and (3) our sin.
- **Conflict is an opportunity** to live out our faith by following God's instructions.
- **Your brother is not your enemy.** Our fight is against the world, the flesh and the devil.

- **We are tempted to either:**

**Avoid** by denial, escapism and withdrawal from relationship; or

**Attack** by dominating, manipulating or punishing others.

- **But when faced with conflict, we are called to either:**

**Overlook** trivial offenses by exercising patience, self-control and wisdom; or

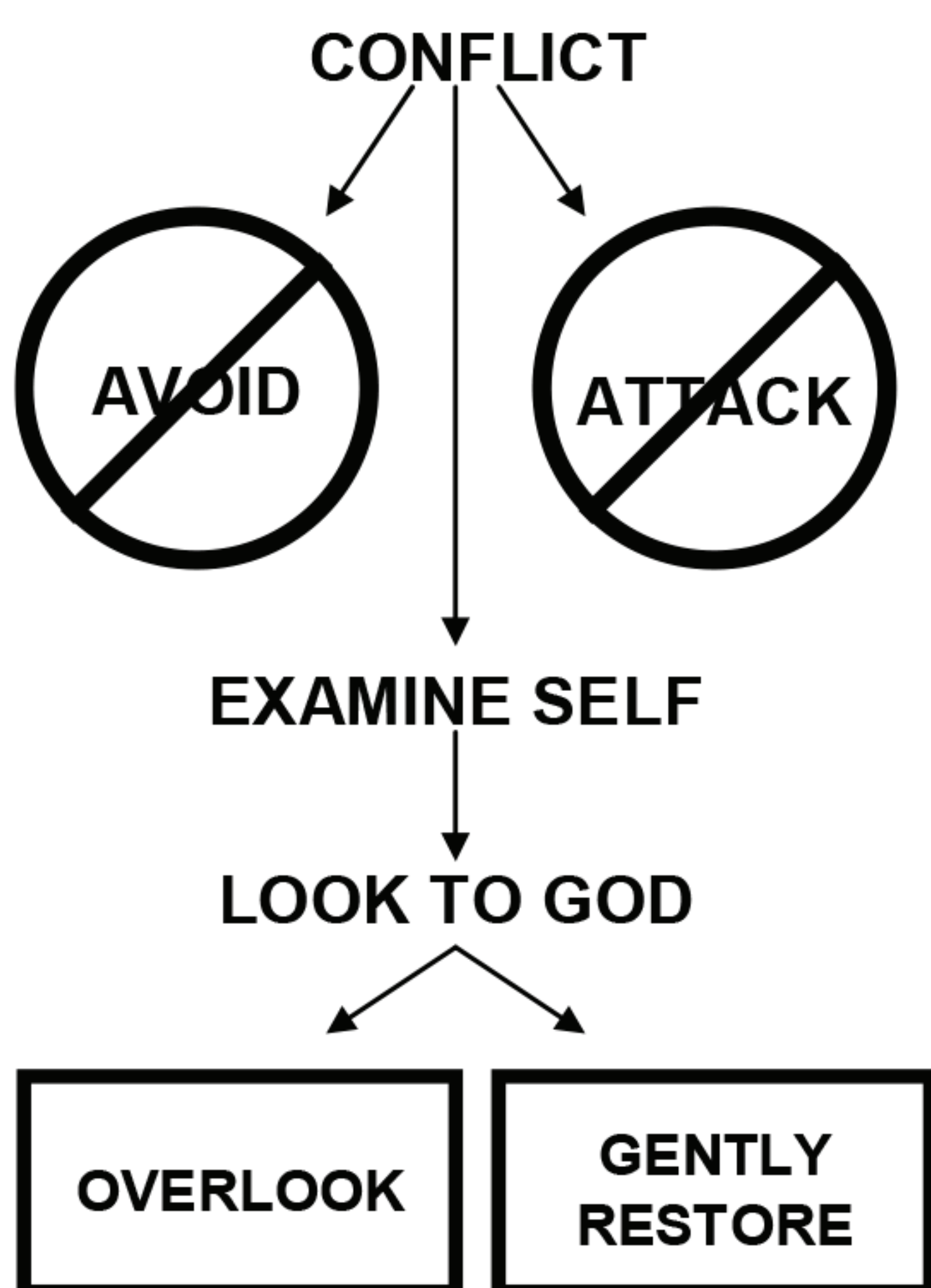
**Gently Restore** the people involved to a right relationship with God and each other by God's instructions for confrontation, reconciliation and forgiveness.

- **Motives** make the difference.
- **God's Word speaks** to all aspects of conflict. When in conflict, seek God's instructions through Bible study, prayer and godly counsel.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." ~ Matthew 5:9*

# Peacemaking Process

To glorify God, love others and grow to be like Christ by resolving conflict God's way.



## **1. Examine yourself (Mat 7:3-5)**

- What's the real issue(s)?
- What's my motivation?
- How have I contributed to the conflict?

## **2. Look to God (Jas 3:17-18)**

- Have I prayed?
- Am I committed to the goal of peacemaking?
- Am I relying on God's word for wisdom and instruction?

## **3a. Overlook the offense (Pro 20:3)**

- Is this something I can overlook or does it need to be resolved?
- Is it part of an ongoing pattern?
- Is it causing or risking significant harm to relationships or effectiveness in serving God?

## **3b. Gently Restore (Gal 6:1-2)**

- Approach privately and share truth in love.
- Consider the needs of others in choosing the right time, place and words to use (Eph 4:29).
- If you can't resolve it alone, seek help from others in the church (Mat 18:15-17).
- If resolved, forgive. If unresolved, be open to future restoration (Eph 4:32).