



## **Six Keys to Peace in Relationships**

Parts 1-3

### **JAMES 3:13-18**

*“If you are WISE and understand God’s ways, you’ll live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don’t brag about the good you do, then you will be truly WISE! But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your hearts, don’t brag about being wise. That is the worst kind of lie. For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and motivated by the Devil. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and every kind of evil.*

*The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no partiality and is always sincere.*

*Those who are PEACEMAKERS plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.”*

(NLT)

### **SIX THINGS WISE PEOPLE NEVER DO**

(Verse 17)

#### **1. “Wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure.”**

If I want to be wise...

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*“God grants a treasure of good sense to the godly. He is their shield, protecting those who walk with integrity.”*

**PR. 2:7 (NLT)**

## **2. “Wisdom is ... peace loving”**

If I want to be wise...

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*“Any fool can start arguments: the wise thing is to stay out of them.”*

**PR. 20:3 (TEV)**

*“A wise man controls his temper. He knows that anger causes mistakes.”*

**PR. 14:29 (LB)**

## **3. “Wisdom is... gentle all the time”**

*“considerate” (NIV)*

*“courteous” (LB)*

If I want to be wise...

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*“Kind words bring life, but cruel words crush your spirit.”*

**PR. 15:4**

## **4. “Wisdom is... willing to yield to others”**

*“Open to reason” (ESV)*

*“allows discussion” (LB)*

If I want to be wise...

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*“Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.”*

**PR. 18:15 (NLT)**

## **5. “Wisdom is... full of mercy and good deeds”**

If I want to be wise...

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*“Love forgets mistakes; nagging about them parts the best of friends.”*

*Pr. 17:9 (LB)*

**6. “Wisdom... is impartial and always sincere”**

*“authentic” “genuine” (CEV)*

*“without hypocrisy” (KJV)*

Greek: *adiakritos & anypokritos*

If I want to be wise...

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*“The lips of a liar conceal hostility and whoever spreads accusations is a fool.”*

**PR. 10:18 (NAB)**

*“Jesus is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God’s wisdom and knowledge.”*

**COL. 2:3 (TEV)**



## WHO'S PUSHING YOUR BUTTONS?

Parts 1-3

*"If you cannot control your anger, you are as helpless as a city without walls, open to attack."*

PR. 25:28 (TEV)

*"A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted."*

PR. 12:16 (NLT)

*"It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city."*

PR. 16:32 (NLT)

## WAYS PEOPLE EXPRESS ANGER

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Example: Cain

*"Cain became furious and he scowled in anger...And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him."*

GEN. 4:5, 8

• \_\_\_\_\_  
Example: Jeremiah

*“...I stayed by myself and was filled with anger. Why do I keep on suffering? Why are my wounds incurable? Why won’t they heal?”*

**JER. 15:17-18**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
Example: The Prodigal’s Brother

*“The elder brother was so angry he would not go in (to the party). So his father went out and pleaded with him...”*

**LUKE 15:28**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
Example: The Pharisees

*“But they were furious and began to plot with each other what they might do to Jesus.”*

**LUKE 6:11**

## **HOW TO DISARM YOUR BUTTON-PUSHERS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“An angry person causes trouble, and a person with a quick temper sins a lot.”*

**PR. 29:22 (NCV)**

*“Hot tempers cause arguments.”*

**PR. 15:18 (GN)**

*“. . . anger causes mistakes.”*

**PR. 14:29 (LB)**

*“People with hot tempers do foolish things.”*

**PR. 14:17 (GN)**

*“Those who control their anger have great understanding;  
those with a hasty temper make mistakes.”*

**PR. 14:29 (NLT)**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.”*

**PR. 19:11 (NIV)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Sensible people always think before they act.”*

**PR. 13:16**

*“A fool gives full vent to anger, but a wise person quietly holds it back.”*

**PR. 29:11 (NLT)**

*“A gentle answer quiets anger, but a harsh one stirs it up.”*

**PR.15:1 (TEV)**

*“A truly wise person uses few words;  
a person with understanding is even-tempered.”*

**PR. 17:27 (NLT)**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Lord, help me control my tongue; help me to be careful about what I say!”*

**PSALM 141:3 (NCV)**

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, and patience...”*

**GAL. 5:22**

5. \_\_\_\_\_

*“The fear of human opinion disables you; but trusting in God protects you from that.”*

**PR. 29:25 (MSG)**

*“Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and  
chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes!”*

**EPH. 1:4 (NLT)**



## **RESOLVING CONFLICT**

*Parts 1-3*

*"Never pay back evil for evil to anyone... As much as possible,  
as far as it depends on you, live in peace with everyone."*

**ROMANS 12:17-18 (NLT)**

## **THE DAMAGE OF UNRESOLVED CONFLICT**

## BIBLICAL STEPS TO RESOLVING CONFLICT

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“If you’re standing before the altar in the Temple, giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. Go at once and first be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God.”*

**MATT. 5:23-24 (NLT)**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your friend’s eye, but you don’t notice the big piece of wood in your own eye? First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to take the dust out of your friend’s eye.”*

**MATT. 7:3 (NCV)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”*

**JAMES 1:19 (NLT)**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”*

**PHIL. 2:4-5 (NIV)**

5. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”*

**PROV. 12:18 (NIV)**



*“Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words,  
the kind that build up and provide what is needed.”*

**EPH. 4:29 (TEV)**

6. \_\_\_\_\_

*“You must rid yourselves of all such things as these:  
anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.”*

**COL. 3:8 (NIV)**

*“Let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind  
not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.”*

**ROM. 14:13 (NIV)**

7. \_\_\_\_\_

“Reconciliation” = to reestablish the relationship  
“Resolution” = to resolve every issue

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God!”*

**MATT. 5:9 (NIV)**



## FINDING THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE

Parts 1-3

*“The righteous chooses his friends carefully.”*

PROVERBS 12:26

### CORRECTING 2 MYTHS

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- \_\_\_\_\_

### “MUST HAVES”

1. WE MUST HAVE \_\_\_\_\_

*“Stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers.  
Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything  
in common with darkness?...Can a believer  
share life with an unbeliever?”*

2 COR. 6:14-15 (GW)

*“Do not unite yourself with an unbeliever; they are not fit mates for you.”*

2 COR. 6:14 (NEB)

*"I want us to help each other with the faith we have.  
Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you."*

**ROM. 1:12 (NCV)**

2. WE MUST HAVE \_\_\_\_\_

*"Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?"*

**AMOS 3:3 (NLT)**

*"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do  
good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

**EPH. 2:10 (NIV)**

*"Each of you has received a gift from God for serving others.  
Now you must be faithful to develop and use that gracious gift from God!"*

**1 PETER 4:10 (NCV)**

*"Brothers and sisters, you are holy partners in a heavenly CALLING."*

**HEB. 3:1A (GW)**

3. WE MUST BOTH BE \_\_\_\_\_

### **A PARTIAL CHECKLIST OF EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

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*"Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man!  
Do not associate with one easily angered."*

**PROV. 22:24 (NIV)**

• \_\_\_\_\_

*"Don't associate with people who drink too much, or stuff themselves with food."*

**PROV. 23:20 (TEV)**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Make sure you all have experienced the grace of God so that bitterness doesn’t take root and grow, because that causes much trouble and will corrupt you.”*

**HEBREWS 12:15**

*“If you curse your father or mother, the lamp of your life will be snuffed out.”*

**PROV. 20:20 (NLT)**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Selfish people cause trouble.”*

**PROV. 28:25**

*“People who do not get along with others are only interested in themselves; they will disagree with what everyone else knows is right.”*

**PROV. 18:1 (TEV)**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*“A greedy man brings trouble to his family.”*

**PROV. 15:27**

*“Don’t eat at the table of a stingy person.”*

**PROV. 23:6 (TEV)**

• \_\_\_\_\_  
*“A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.”*

**PROV. 11:25 (NIV)**

*“A kindhearted woman gains respect...and a kind man benefits himself, but cruel people bring trouble on themselves.”*

**PROV. 11:17**

• \_\_\_\_\_

*“A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity.  
His children will be blessed, even after he is gone.”*

**PROV. 20:7**

## **ENDING A DEAD-END DATING RELATIONSHIP**

*“In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery.”*

**PR. 28:23 (NLT)**



## **BREAKING FREE FROM ABUSE**

*Parts 1-3*

*“Why do you keep tormenting me with words? Time after time you insult me and show no shame for the way you abuse me.”*

**JOB 19:1-3. (TEV)**

## **HOW TO HELP SOMEONE BREAK FREE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus:

*“The truth will set you free.”*

**JOHN 8:32**

David:

*“I said, ‘I will not say anything while evil people are near.’  
So I kept quiet, not saying a word...but my suffering only grew worse,  
and I was overcome with anxiety. The more I thought, the more troubled  
I became; I could not keep from asking: ‘Lord, how long will I live?  
When will I die? Tell me how soon my life will end.’”*

**PSALM 39:1-4 (TEV)**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Marks of Emotional Abuse – David's Descriptions

*"My enemies taunt me day after day. They mock and curse me."*

**PS. 102:8**

*"...they tell lies about me and threaten me."*

**PS. 109:20**

*"...they make fun of me and ridicule me."*

**PS. 22:7**

*"I have been insulted, put to shame, and humiliated."*

**PS. 69:19**

*"Using words to kill; they bully their way with words."*

**PS. 73:8 (MES)**

*"They push hard to make me fall."*

**PS. 118:13 (GW)**

*"They spread rumors about me, and conspire against me."*

**PS. 31:13**

*"They mock me with the worst kind of profanity, and snarl at me."*

**PS. 35:16**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins,  
for the anger of God comes upon all those who disobey him."*

**EPH. 5:6 (NLT)**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Look on victims of abuse as if what happened to them happened to you."*

**HEB. 13:3B (MES)**

*“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*

**GAL. 6:2 (NIV)**

5. \_\_\_\_\_

*“By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst.  
Can you get a third person? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped.”*

**ECCL. 4:12 (MES)**

*“Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness;  
instead, rebuke and expose them. It is shameful even to  
talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret.  
But when the light shines on them, it becomes clear how evil  
these things are. And where your light shines,  
it will expose their evil deeds.”*

**EPH. 5:11-13 (NLT)**

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Advice to Job:

*“Put your heart right. Reach out to God. Put away any evil and  
wrong from your home. Then face the world again, firm and courageous.  
Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are  
past and remembered no more! Your life will be brighter than  
sunshine at noon, and life’s darkest hours will shine like the dawn!”*

**JOB 11:13-17 (TEV)**

7. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Never repay one wrong with another, or one abusive word  
with another; instead, repay with a blessing. That is what  
you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing.”*

**1 PETER 3:9 (NJB)**

*“Christ never verbally abused those who verbally abused him.  
When he suffered, he didn’t make any threats but left  
everything to the one who judges fairly.”*

**1 PETER 2:23 (GW)**





## ESCAPING THE PEOPLE-PLEASER TRAP

Parts 1-2

*"It is a dangerous trap to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you are safe."*

PR. 29:25 (TEV)

## WHY TRYING TO PLEASE EVERYONE IS A TRAP

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Our purpose is to please God, not people. He is the one who examines the motives of our hearts."*

1 THES. 2:4 (NLT)

2. \_\_\_\_\_

*"You try to get praise from each other, but you do not try to get the praise that comes from the only God. So how can you believe?"*

JOHN 5:44 (NCV)

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong!”*

**EXODUS 23:2 (NIV)**

*Saul confessed to Samuel, “I’ve sinned. I’ve trampled roughshod over God’s Word and your instructions. I cared more about pleasing people so I let them tell me what to do.”*

**1 SAMUEL 15:24 (MSG)**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus:

*“You make yourselves look good in other people’s eyes but God knows your hearts.”*

**LUKE 16:15A (TEV)**

*“You may brag about yourself, but the only approval that counts is the Lord’s approval.”*

**2 COR. 10:18 (CEV)**

5. \_\_\_\_\_

*“No one had the courage to speak favorably about Jesus in public, for they were afraid of getting in trouble with the leaders.”*

**JOHN 7:13 (NLT)**

*“Many people, including leaders, believed in Jesus. But they wouldn’t talk about it publicly out of their fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. They loved human approval more than they loved the approval of God.”*

**JOHN 12:42-43**

## **SIX FACTS TO REMEMBER**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus:

*“Your approval or disapproval means nothing to me.”*

**JOHN 5:41 (TLB)**

*"I am the One who comforts you! So why are you afraid of mere humans, who wither like the grass and disappear?"*

**ISAIAH 51:12 (NLT)**

*"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close."*

**PSALM 27:10 (NLT)**

3. \_\_\_\_\_

*"The world and everything in it that people desire is passing away; but those who do the will of God will live forever."*

**1 JOHN 2:17 (TEV)**

Jesus:

*"The things that are highly valued by people are worth nothing in God's sight."*

**LUKE 16:15B (TEV)**

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus:

*"I don't try to please myself, but I only please the One who sent me."*

**JOHN 5:30 (NCV)**

Paul:

*"I'm not trying to be a people pleaser! No, I am trying to please God. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be Christ's servant."*

**GALATIANS 1:10 (NLT)**

5. \_\_\_\_\_

*"Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God."*

**ROMANS 14:12 (NLT)**

*"If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, I, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when I come in my glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."*

**LUKE 9:26 (NIV)**

6.

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*“Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.”*

**ROMANS 12:2 (PH)**



## KEEPING THE CRAZYS FROM MAKING YOU CRAZY

Parts 1-3

### TYPES OF CRAZYS

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

### HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

*“When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known. Wise people will ignore an insult.”*

**PROV. 12:16 (TEV)**

*“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense.”*

**PROV. 19:11**

*“Love overlooks the wrongs that others do.”*

**PR. 10:12 (CEV)**

2.

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*“Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’”*

**LUKE 23:34**

*“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.”*

**COL. 3:13 (NLT)**

3.

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*“Disregarding another person’s faults preserves love; but gossiping about them separates close friends.”*

**PR. 17:9 (NLT)**

*“Do not do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult. But repay with a blessing, because you yourselves were called to do this so that you might receive a blessing.”*

**1 PETER 3:9 (NCV)**

4.

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Example of Jesus:

*“The Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging... Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, ‘Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me?’”*

**MATT. 22:15,18-19 (MSG)**

*“We reject all shameful and underhanded methods. We do not try to trick anyone, and we do not distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that.”*

**2 COR. 4:2 (NLT)**

*“Just as charcoal and wood keep a fire going, a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going.”*

**PROV. 26:21 (NCV)**

5.

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*“Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.”*

**ROM. 14:16**

*“We have freedom now, because Christ made us free.  
So stand strong. Do not change and go back into the slavery of the law.”*

**GAL. 5:1 (NCV)**

*“The disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?’ Jesus replied, ‘Every plant not planted by my Father will be rooted up, so ignore them!’”*

**MATT. 15:12-14 (NLT)**

6. \_\_\_\_\_

*“Ask God to bless those who persecute you—yes, ask him to bless, not to curse.”*

**ROM. 12:14 (TEV)**

*“If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong.  
Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible  
on your part to live in peace with everybody.”*

**ROM. 12:17-18 (TEV)**

*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

**ROM. 12:21**

*“When a man’s ways are pleasing to the Lord,  
He makes even his enemies live at peace with him.”*

**PROV. 16:7**



## HOW TO KEEP YOUR MARRIAGE GROWING

Parts 1-3

*"Homes are built on the foundation of wisdom & understanding."*

**PR. 24:3 (TEV)**

*"I pray that your love will keep on growing  
because of your knowledge and insight."*

**PH. 1:9 (GW)**

### 1. KEEP ON

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*"Marriage involves you in all the domestic life and  
wanting to please your spouse, leading to so  
many more demands on your attention."*

**1 COR. 7:33-34A (MSG)**

*"Answering before listening is both stupid and rude."*

**PR. 18:13 (MSG)**

*"God speaks in different ways, and  
we don't always recognize His voice."*

**Job 33:14 (CEV)**

*"Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."*

**James 1:19 (NIV)**



## 2. KEEP ON

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*“Our love should not be just words and talk;  
it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”*

**1 John 3:18 (TEV)**

*“Look out for one another’s interests, not just your own.”*

**Phil. 2:4 (TEV)**

*“Honor Christ by submitting to each other.”*

**Eph. 5:21 (LB)**

*“May God...help you live in complete harmony with each other –  
each with the attitude of Christ Jesus toward the other.”*

**Rom. 15:5 (NLT)**

## 3. KEEP ON

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*“Love each other with genuine affection,  
and take delight in honoring each other.”*

**Rom. 12:10 (NLT)**

*Jesus told a church: “The love you had at first is gone.  
Remember how far you have fallen. Return to Me and change  
the way you think and act, and do what you did at first.”*

**Rev. 2:4-5 (GW)**

*“May you live to enjoy your grandchildren.”*

**Ps. 128:6 (NLT)**

## 4. KEEP ON

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*“Encourage each other every day while it is ‘today!’”*

**Heb. 3:13a (NCV)**

*“A word of encouragement does wonders!”*

**Pr. 12:25 (LB)**

*“I have great confidence in you and have a lot of reasons to be proud of you...”*

**2 Cor. 7:4 (GW)**

*“I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.”*

**Rom. 1:12 (NCV)**

## **5. KEEP ON**

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*“You have accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord. Now keep on following Him.”*

**Col. 2:6 (CEV)**

*“Keep your roots deep in Him, build your lives on Him, and become stronger in your faith.”*

**Col. 2:7 (TEV)**

*“Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed.”*

**James 5:16 (Msg)**

*“Listen for God’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He’s the one who will keep you on track.”*

**Pr. 3:6 (Msg)**