

# Welcome

Welcome to the  
Women's Conference

## *Women and Peacemaking . . . A Journey of Grace*

Thank you for committing the time this evening and tomorrow to allow refreshment and encouragement for your soul. You might have wondered . . . Why "Peacemaking Women"? Where did the idea for this conference come from? That is a good question. We arrived at this place after prayerfully seeking God for the next step.

Moving forward from our "Real Women" conference last year, we began to consider some of the biggest obstacles we face in living out our "Real Faith" in "Real Life." God led us to see the common issue of relational conflict and lack of internal peace as a logical place to begin our Journey of Grace.

We've all probably been discouraged at one time or another over the conflict in our lives. And, many may wonder if there is really any hope for consistently living at peace. Our sincere prayer is that you will experience the freedom of having peace with God, peaceful relationships with others, and genuine peace within.

You won't hear a list of things that you need to "try harder" to "do better." You will hear about the heart of God whose love for you is unfailing. May He give you courage to look at the heart of what causes conflicts among us and inside us. It is a Journey of Grace!

If you are in need of someone to talk with or desire help in a present crisis, please seek out another woman at the conference today. Prayer team members and table discussion leaders are wearing ribbons on their name tags.

Grace to you,



# *Schedule*

**Conference Schedule**







*Tara Klana Barthel*  
Conference Speaker

**Tara Klana Barthel**

([www.tarabarthel.com](http://www.tarabarthel.com)), is a former director at Peacemaker Ministries and the coauthor of *Peacemaking Women – Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict* (Baker Book House Co., 2005).

*From Tara*

Thank you so very much for the privilege of serving you at this event! I count it a great honor to learn with you, pray together, and enjoy fellowship as we help one another to remember and apply the great and precious promises of God. If I might be of further service to you in the future, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me. Please visit [www.tarabarthel.com](http://www.tarabarthel.com) to read my blog (“Considerable Grace”), inquire as to my speaking or conciliating services, or to order CDs, tapes, or signed copies of my book. Thanks again and God bless you!



## Session 1:


# *The Gospel— Our Foundation for Peace*

Although, as Christian women, we readily confess that we are “saved by grace,” many of us struggle to believe that God’s love, mercy, and delight are actually and consistently towards us. We sense His pleasure when we are “being good,” but we usually have a vague sense that no matter how hard we try, “we’re never quite good enough.” This crushing burden brings conflict to our relationship with God, others, and within. But there is hope! In this first session, we remember anew God’s grace for us through the gospel of Jesus Christ, and from that place of abundant love and safety, learn together how we are called to give that same grace to others as peacemaking women.

## *Considerable Grace*

### *Remembering the Gospel*

*“Almost every person in the world longs for peace within. But there can be no peace within unless there is first peace with God and peace with others “as far as it depends on you” (Rom. 12:18). (p.16 of Peacemaking Women)*

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- The law is good (1 Timothy 1:8), but only the gospel changes our hearts (Luke 6:43-45, Romans 8:1-39). We must first remember who God is and what He has done before we ever try to change.
  
  - Generally, we give grace to others to the extent we experience it ourselves. If we are living in a “works” mentality towards God, we are probably living in a “works” mentality towards others and ourselves (Matthew 18:23-35).
  
  - Our reconciled relationship with God is what makes reconciled relationships with *others* and peace *within* possible (2 Peter 1:9, Isaiah 26:3-4).

*“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” Titus 3:3-5*

## *Growing in Grace*

### *Perfect and Growing in Perfection*

*“Our brothers and sisters in Christ, though imperfect themselves and growing in sanctification, help us to remember the height from which we have fallen (Rev. 2:5), the home to which we are headed (John 14:2), and the great and glorious love of God (1 John 3:1).”  
(p. 23 of Peacemaking Women)*

- Remember your testimony – from where have you come? Remember the gift of salvation by faith through grace – we can never be good enough! That’s why Christ came and lived the perfect life we could never live and died the death we deserved (Romans 5:1-11, Hebrews 4:14-16).
  
- Don’t forget the doctrines of justification (2 Cor. 5:21, once and for all, already perfect) and sanctification (Phil. 2:13 & 1:6, Rom. 8:29, an ongoing process until we reach Heaven, growing in perfection).

*“By one sacrifice He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” Hebrews 12:14*

# *Wholly Defined by the Gospel*

## *Not For But From*

*“Nothing brings greater peace to the Christian than the sure knowledge that God is near, cares deeply, and He is a safe refuge where we can find rest.” (p. 317 of Peacemaking Women)*

- As we grow in grace, we learn to be wholly defined by the gospel – not *for* God’s acceptance and love, but *from* His acceptance and love. We preach truth to our “sticky brains” of unbelief and move from a mere confessional theology to a practical theology.
- David Powlison reminds us, “People change when biblical truth becomes more loud and vivid than previous life experience.” Biblical theology is the application of the whole of Scripture by the whole person to the whole of life (see 2 Timothy 3:16).
- Remember! God calls us His beloved because it delights Him to do so (Eph. 1:5). Why does God love us? Not because of what we do but because we are His. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:38-39, Isaiah 49:16).


## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

**(Limited number of discounted copies available at this event):**

- Tara Barthel, *Peacemaking Women – Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict*; and various teaching CDs and audio tapes including: *The Gospel – Our Foundation for Peace*, *The Grace of God that Brings Shalom* (my personal testimony), *Healing the Conflicts Between Mothers and Daughters*, *Oceans of Emotions – Effectively Ministering Peace to Women*
- Patricia Miller, *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling Women*
- Edward T. Welch, *Depression – A Stubborn Darkness: Light for the Path*
- CCEF booklets on various topics: *Forgiveness*, *Depression-The Way Up When You Are Down*, *Suffering-Eternity Makes a Difference*, *Why Me?*, *Bad Memories*, *Stress & Peace*

### *Questions for Personal Reflection*

1. How did you first become acquainted with the gospel? What are some of your favorite passages in Scripture that remind you of the riches of your salvation? Why are they precious to you? How does the cross of Jesus Christ offer you proof of God's love for you? Read Ephesians 5:2, 25 and Revelation 19:6-9. How much does Jesus love His bride? Do you believe that as a member of His church, Jesus loves you this much?

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2. Read Genesis 37-50, 2 Corinthians 1, and Romans 8:28-29. Do you believe that God is truly sovereign, purposeful, and has a good and holy reason for everything he does? What about the pain and suffering you have experienced in life? Do you doubt God's goodness and care for you? Meditate on Psalm 23. Write a paragraph to reflect on God's sovereignty and goodness in the specific areas of your life.
  
  3. Do you ever struggle with a vague sense that you are not good enough no matter how hard you try? What comes easier to you, believing that God delights in you or that He is disappointed in you? Do you feel closer to God when you are doing good things? Do you feel that God loves you more when you do righteous acts? If so, why do you think it is that you try to earn God's love and approval instead of relying solely on Christ? The truths of the Gospel of Grace: justified and being sanctified, forgiven and adopted, delighted in and beloved, are key to being wholly defined by the Gospel. Read Galatians 4:6-7 and 1 John 3:1. Write out a paragraph on what it means to trust in Christ alone rather than on your own performance.
  
  4. Read Psalm 27:10 and Hebrews 13:5. What comfort do you find in knowing that even though people may reject you, God never will? Pray through Psalm 119:33-40.



Session 2:

*Biblical (and Practical) Hope  
for Resolving Conflict – Part A*

*“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!  
... For there the LORD bestows His blessing, even life forevermore.”  
Psalm 133:1,3b*

*Why Does Unity Matter?*

*“If you are a Christian woman, you are called to be a peacemaking woman. This is not our idea. It is Christ who compels us. The admonition to “go and be reconciled” is the call to reflect the very heart of God in our lives.” (p. 17 of Peacemaking Women)*

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” John 17:20-23*

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*How Do We Respond to Conflict?*  
**The Slippery Slope**



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## A Biblical Theology for Conflict Resolution

### *Glorify God*

*"The gospel says that God loves us and accepts us because of Jesus. In response, we live boldly as every aspect of our lives becomes a response to God's grace. Even conflict, a universally dreaded human experience, becomes an opportunity to respond to the glorious grace of God in our lives." (p. 95 of Peacemaking Women)*

How can I please and honor God in this situation?

- Trust & obey God (John 14:15-31, John 19:21)
  
- Serve others (Romans 15:1-3)
  
- Grow to be like Christ (Romans 8:28-29)

*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31*

## *Get the Log Out of Your Own Eye*

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

### **The Seven A's of Confession**

*"Confessing what we view as a small contribution to the problem can be painfully difficult when we feel that the other person has sinned greatly. But the gospel makes us joyfully free to root out and admit our weaknesses and inadequacies because we know that we are safe and secure in the hand of God." (pp. 96-97 of Peacemaking Women)*

*"You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."  
Matthew 7:5*



**Session 3:**

*Biblical (and Practical) Hope  
for Resolving Conflict – Part B*

*Gently Restore*

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

*“The grace of God is what enables us to minister truth, mercy, hope, and love to our brothers and sisters in Christ through biblical confrontation. We confront because we are compelled by love.” (p. 98 of Peacemaking Women)*



## Elements of Effective Confrontation

- Pray
- Choose the right time and place
- Have a charitable presumption
- Talk in person whenever possible
- Plan your words and anticipate likely responses
- Use a gracious tone of voice and friendly body language
- Be objective (avoid “always, ever, never” and other hyperboles)
- Use the Bible carefully (tool of God’s grace, not a club!)
- ALWAYS hold out hope—the Gospel

*“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.” Galatians 6:1*

## *Go and Be Reconciled*

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

### **The Four Promises of Forgiveness**

*“Conflict is painful. Will we strive for unity and harmony? Or will we live in conflict or worse yet, the apathy of denial? The gospel message of reconciliation is our mandate to show the world Christ. Our conflicts provide opportunities for us to impact the world by prayerfully, humbly striving to be reconciled inasmuch as it depends on us (Rom. 12:18).” (p. 101 of Peacemaking Women)*

*“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3*

## *Questions for Personal Reflection*

1. Have you ever known a truly peaceful woman? Describe her countenance. What were her words like? How did you feel in her presence? Do you think her life was free of all conflicts? Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 and John 16:33. In this life we have troubles and conflict. Write out three promises from Scripture as to how you can be a woman at peace, even amidst the storms of life.
2. List the relationships in your life that are conflicted. Review the 4 G's and read Proverbs 15:1 and Romans 12:21. Explain in your own words how Christians are called to respond to conflicted relationships, especially when people wrong us. Have you responded to these conflicted relationships in a biblically faithful way?
3. How do you usually respond to conflict as described on the Slippery Slope of Conflict? How do your responses to conflict encourage truly reconciled, redemptive relationships? In what ways do your responses exacerbate conflict and fail to evidence grace, mercy, and love? How is God calling you to respond in a new way to the conflicts you face?

4. Think of a person that you feel has wronged you. List out the ways he or she has wronged you. On another sheet of paper, list out your wrongs against this same person. Which was easier to do? What might this reveal about your heart? Read Matthew 7:1-5 before you answer.
  
5. Peacemaking is hard work. Even with the best of intentions, sometimes conflicts can worsen and we need to get help to work them through. Read James 5:19-20, Hebrews 3:12-13, Romans 15:14, and Proverbs 15:22. If you have made every effort to resolve a conflict privately, who can you turn to for help? Do you know someone who is currently in a conflict? Have you helped them to faithfully obey Scripture and be reconciled? Should you? Will you?

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

**(Limited number of discounted copies available at this event):**

- Tara Barthel, *Peacemaking Women – Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict*; and various teaching CDs and audio tapes including *Biblical Conflict Resolution* (parts 1 & 2)
- Corlette Sande, *The Young Peacemaker – Parent/teacher guide and student activity booklets* packed with interactive exercises
- Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*
- Ken Sande, *The Peacemaker Workbook* – A journal to walk step-by-step through a biblical response to the real-life conflicts you are facing.
- Ken Sande and Ted Kober, *Guiding People through Conflict – A “crash course” in biblical peacemaking and Christian conciliation*. If you are called to help others with their conflicts, this resource is for you!



**Session 4:**  
*Lasting Peace*  
*Through Heart Change*

*What Is Ruling Our Hearts?*

*"We must understand that our relational conflicts and lack of internal peace reveal with great clarity the condition of our hearts."  
(p. 20 of Peacemaking Women)*

We act and speak the way we do because of what is in our hearts  
(Luke 6:43-45).

- I would be completely content or happy in my life if only ...
- All I want is ...
- I get most sad and depressed when ...
- I feel hopeless when ...
- Sometimes I dream that ...
- I just want to avoid ...
- Don't ask me to give up my ...

*"Dear children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21*

## *Our Relationships Reveal our Idols*

*All sin is summarized as idolatry (Ephesians 5:5-6, Deuteronomy 4:23).*

*“A heart that hungers after idols is a heart without peace. ... Idolatrous living robs us of shalom – that sweet relationship with God, others, and ourselves.” (p. 60 of Peacemaking Women)*

- When the desires of our hearts are elevated to demands (James 4:1-3) and our demands are not met, how do we respond?
- Do we live to impress others and gain their approval? Are we bound by the fear of Man (Prov. 29:25, Jer. 17:5-8)? Or do we rightly worship God alone?
- Any motivation for living other than finding our satisfaction in God will eventually bring emptiness and despair because idols never satisfy.

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

## *What Are We Called to Do?*

*“To be peacemaking women, our hope is to rest in God’s grace as we turn from these false gods. This is a lifelong battle. It is our ongoing calling to turn away from idols and turn toward the Lord. This is one of the foundational aspects of our sanctification and conformity to Christ.” (pp. 60-61 of Peacemaking Women)*

- Know God through His Word and turn to Him (Isaiah 62:4-5, 1 Corinthians 1:30).
  
- Identify your idols, turn away from them, and replace them with rightful worship of God (1 Corinthians 10:13-14, Jonah 2:8).
  
- Have specific Scriptures to battle your temptations against your specific idols (Titus 2:11-12, 2 Peter 1:3-4).
  
- Get help within the covenantal Body of Christ (Rom. 12:4-5, 1 Cor. 12:12-26) to lay hold of Christ – which (to paraphrase John Calvin) means to lay hold of His promises.

*“I turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he has raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues me from the coming wrath.” 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*



## *Questions for Personal Reflection*

1. Read Jeremiah 17:9, Proverbs 20:5, Luke 24:25, Romans 10:10, Hebrews 4:12, and 1 John 2:16. What does Scripture say about the nature of our hearts?
  
2. List three things that you have longed for in life that you thought would satisfy you, but left you feeling empty after receiving them. Why did these things not satisfy? How did you respond when your longings were realized, but your experience was one of further dissatisfaction?
  
3. We do things for many reasons: to avoid pain; to achieve pleasure, comfort, joy, meaning, or happiness. To help discover what you value and what rules your heart, complete the bulleted questions under “What is Ruling Our Hearts.”

4. From the above answers, what desires can you identify that motivate you to do the things you do or feel the way you feel? Read Luke 6:43-45, Deuteronomy 6:5, 1 John 2:15-16, and Jeremiah 17:5-8. Write a paragraph about what your desires reveal about who or what you worship, trust, and love.
5. Are you convicted that you may be struggling with an idol? Name this idol and make a list of the consequences you have experienced or might experience in the future because of it. How would your life be different if you were to turn away from this false god? Read 2 Chronicles 14:2-6. What did King Asa do to gain peace and rest? Read 1 Samuel 7:3 and 12:20-25, Matthew 6:24, and 1 John 3:10. What is God calling you to do?

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

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- Tara Barthel, *Peacemaking Women – Biblical Hope for Resolving Conflict*; and various teaching CDs and audio tapes including: *The Root of Conflict – Our Idolatrous Hearts*, *Relationships that Reflect the Glory of God*, *Oceans of Emotions – Effectively Ministering Peace to Women*, and *Healing the Conflicts Between Mothers and Daughters*
- Paul David Tripp, *War of Words: Getting to the Heart of Your Communication Struggles and How People Change*
- Edward T. Welch, *Addictions – A Banquet in the Grave: Finding Hope in the Power of the Gospel*
- Edward T. Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man*



**Session 5:**

*Relationships that Reflect  
the Glory of God*

*“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35*

*Relationships Matter*

*“On the last day, Jesus will not ask about our IQ, social status, health, or wealth. He will ask how our relationships were. And the chief characteristic of a good relationship is love.” Alfred Poirier*

*“If you are offering your gift at the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar, first go and be reconciled, then come and offer your gift.”*

*Matthew 5:23-24*

## *We Are Not Called to Be Loved—But to Love*

*(Because the covenant is corporate) "Even when people in the church fail us, our Savior calls us to love His bride and to pursue her peace and purity."*

*WIC Biblical Foundations for Womanhood, "Paul's Letters to Maturing Churches"*

- Difficult people? Destroy 'em (Romans 12)
  
- By resting in God's love, His grace enables us to love others (John 15:9-13, 1 Peter 4:8, John 13:3-5).

*"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Excerpts from Romans 12*

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## *Accept One Another & Change to Serve Others*

*“The outworking of God’s grace in us is demonstrated in relationships. “How good and pleasant it is when brothers [and sisters] live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1) But it is not always the easy thing to do! Again the answer is grace – God’s grace that liberates us to be a servant.” Susan Hunt*

- Grow in humility and love by delighting in the differences among God’s people and setting aside self to serve others (1 Thessalonians 5:14, Romans 15:2-3a, Colossians 4:6).
- Not “Jesus Plus Anything” – just Jesus.

*“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” Romans 15:7*

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## *Develop Redemptive Friendships*

*“Friendships of shalom provide safe harbors for our hearts when the storms of life come. True friendship is a reflection and foretaste of heaven.” (pp. 122-123 of Peacemaking Women)*

- You don't find a friend – you grow a friend.
  
- Don't forget the three qualities of God's character that are essential ingredients for lasting change – grace, truth, and redemptive time!
  
- This is all “beyond our abilities and into the realm of grace” (Susan Hunt).

*“My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love ... in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” Colossians 2:2-3*


## *Questions for Personal Reflection*

1. If you had to describe most of your relationships, what words would you use?

- |  |                                       |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shallow       | <input type="checkbox"/> Unpleasant   | <input type="checkbox"/> Genuine      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonexistent   | <input type="checkbox"/> Gracious     | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superficial   | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertaining | <input type="checkbox"/> God-centered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Uncomfortable | <input type="checkbox"/> Redemptive   |                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conflicted    | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |                                       |

2. Would you describe yourself more as a “relational person” or a “task-oriented” person? How much of a priority are your relationships and friendships? Read Leviticus 19:18. What does it mean to “love your neighbor as yourself”? In what ways are you successful and in what ways do you fail to love others this way?

3. The nature of our Triune God provides a clear pattern for our relationships. Within the eternal fellowship of the holy Trinity, God loves and delights in himself (Luke 3:22), trusts himself (Matt. 26:39), and knows himself intimately (John 7:28-29). How do you see these qualities reflected in your own relationships?

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4. Describe the type of friend that you are attracted to. Why are some people unattractive and unappealing to you? Are any of the things you dislike in people the very same weaknesses and sins you struggle with? Meditate on all of Romans 12. How is God calling you to demonstrate sincere love and self-sacrifice in your relationships?
  
  5. Do you breathe grace through your words? What is the nature of your speech? Read Ephesians 4:29. How do you fail to meet this standard? In what ways would your relationships change if every word you ever spoke met God's standard for your speech as summarized in Ephesians 4:29?

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- Patricia Miller, *Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling Women*

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*A Special Thank You!*





