

The Peacemaker – Discussion Questions

Chapter 4: Is This Really Worth Fighting Over?

Sunday, September 20, 2026

The Log in Your Own Eye

1. Jesus tells us to take the log out of our own eye before we go after a brother's speck. What two kinds of fault should we look for in ourselves first?
2. Conflicts usually tangle two kinds of issues—material (money, property, rights) and personal (attitudes and how we have treated each other). In a fight you know well, which is which? How have they fed each other?

Overlook Offenses and Check Your Attitude

3. Overlooking an offense is not staying quiet now so you can bring it up later. What does it actually mean to overlook something—and when is that the loving thing to do?
4. Overlooking is not always the loving choice. What two conditions tell you an offense is too serious to drop—and when do you need to go and talk instead?
5. In the middle of a dispute Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord always." What is there to rejoice about when you are still at odds with someone? How does the cross give you something to praise God for before the conflict is even settled?
6. Paul says, "Let your gentleness be evident to all." Why is gentleness in the middle of a fight a way to breathe grace—especially when the other person is already stressed?

7. Paul does not say “just stop worrying.” He says to replace anxiety with prayer and thanksgiving. What anxious replay keeps looping in this conflict—and what would thanking God for past faithfulness look like instead?

8. Ken raked leaves and rehearsed Corlette’s words until Philippians 4:8 turned him around. What happens in you when you only replay the other person’s faults? What is actually true, lovely, or praiseworthy about that person?

Count the Cost and Steward Your Rights

9. Three partners said, “It isn’t just the money; it’s the principle.” Once they added up the real cost—time, sleep, and the spillover on their families—they settled. What is this conflict already costing you?

10. When someone says, “I have my rights,” the question comes back: Where would you spend eternity if God administered justice that was not tempered with mercy? How should the mercy you have received in Christ change the way you cling to a right?

11. Rights are not trophies we own; they are privileges God loans us. Before you exercise a right, which of these four questions most needs to restrain you: Will it honor God? Advance God’s plans? Benefit others? Serve what is truly essential for my well-being?

Closing Application

12. Ted dropped a lawsuit and told Joan that God’s love and forgiveness for him were free. A union man walked away saying, “That’s the first time I’ve ever seen a Christian’s faith cost him anything.” When would laying down a right preach the gospel more clearly than winning?

13. Before you go to remove the speck from your brother’s eye, is this really worth fighting over? Which offense can you simply overlook this week, and which right might you lay down for the sake of God’s kingdom?