

# Winning by Surrendering: The Peacemaker's Guide to Living Life to the Fullest

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Winning by Surrendering Series / Ephesians 4:1–3

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God made us to live life to the fullest. (John 10:10)

Unhealthy conflict is an impediment to living a life to the fullest.

## **Conflict**

Conflict is a difference in opinion or purpose that frustrates someone's goals or desires.

### **The four primary causes of conflict.**

1. Poor Communication
2. Differences in values, goals, gifts, calling, priorities, expectations, interests, or opinions.
3. Competition over limited resources, such as time or money.
4. Can be caused or aggravated by sinful attitudes and habits that lead to sinful words and actions.

Conflict is not necessarily bad.

Conflict is natural and it can be beneficial.

Conflict is natural and it can be detrimental.

## **Responses to conflict**

### **Escape Responses**

- Denial
- Flight
- Suicide

### **Attack responses**

- Assault
- Litigation
- Murder

## **Peacemaking responses (Matthew 18)**

- Overlook an offense
- Reconciliation
- Negotiation
- Mediation
- Arbitration
- Accountability

## **Source of Conflict**

Harmful conflict is usually triggered by unmet desires. (James 4:1-2)

Even good desires can evolve into controlling demands or idols that lead us to judge others and then avoid or punish them until we get what we want (Luke 10:38-42).

## **The Key to Peace - Winning by Surrendering to Christ**

Christ is our peace. (Eph. 2:14-16)

We then are compelled to foster peaceful relationships with others. (Phil. 2:1-2)

The gospel is transformative, and compels us to respond differently during conflict. (Col. 3:12-15)

The personal growth that comes from surrendering to Christ is gained through a daily process. (2 Cor. 3:18)

## **How to live life to the fullest?**

Make every effort to live in peace. (Eph. 4:3)

Fill-in on your own

Fill-in on your own

Fill-in on your own

Take a stand for Christ