GRACE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
The knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

BC7201 Counselling for Conciliation

2027

When: Thursdays 3-4:30pm **Starts:** 4 March, 2027

Online: (You will receive a MS Teams invitation before the class begins. Students will need to login to their Teams account.)

Tutor: Peter D. Reynolds D.Min

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1. BIBLICAL CASE

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*
- John 14:*27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*
- Romans 5:1-5 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*
- Ephesians 2:14-17 *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.*

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

There are no weekly classes for this course, instead it is designed as a self-study course to completed in one semester. You will meet for eight tutorial hours with your lecturer to assess you progress and answer any of your questions.

This course is designed to equip you to intervene in other people's conflicts in order to help them resolve their differences in a way that honours God by demonstrating the reconciling power of Jesus Christ as he is revealed in the Gospel.

2.1. Technical Terms and Definitions (as understood in the context of this course)

Redemptive-History: As seen in the structure of biblical revelation as the unfolding over time of God's redemptive purposes for his people.

Two-Age Tension**:** the reality of living as Christians in a fallen world while simultaneously living in both the age to come and this present evil age.

The Victorious Christian Life: A life that only Jesus Christ has ever lived. He will share his victorious life with us on the day of his return.

Spiritual Maturity: With fear and trembling we face life in a fallen word with a growing commitment to faith, repentance, and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ as he and his promises are revealed in the gospel.

Conciliations: a two to three day process to which parties that are in need of help to reconcile their substantive and relational issues are invited to participate with the help of a Conciliator.

Conciliator: The individual whose job it is to lead the conciliation process with a view to reconciling the parties over divisions and hurts both substantive and relational **.** May be assisted by a co-conciliator.

Parties: The individuals who are in need of being reconciled to each other.

Support People/Observers: Individuals present at the conciliation but who play no part in the proceedings.

Mediation/Arbitration: The process to resolve substantive issues between parties resulting in legally binding judgements and resolutions. In this course we are concerned only with conciliations as described above

3. COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

3.1. Graduate Ideals. *At GTC we believe that the ideal graduate is someone who, because of Christlikeness and kingdom focus, by hard work, a commitment to a lifetime of learning, becomes mighty in the Scriptures, and commits themselves to serving the church and evangelising the world.*

3.2. Purpose

This course seeks to train students to develop the necessary knowledge and skills to help conflicted parties be reconciled on the basis of the gospel dynamics of repentance, confession, forgiveness sought and forgiveness granted.

3.3. Objectives

This course is designed to give you a growing confidence to invite conflicted others to meet with you for a two-three day process of reconciling hursts and divisions wherever people congregate and are relating to each other.

3.4 Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should demonstrate growth in the following areas:

3.4.1 An understanding of the biblical teaching on reconciliation

3.4.2 An understanding of how to guide parties through a process of conciliation.

3.4.3 A growing confidence that you can conduct conciliations in any environment where people co-mingle and relate together.

4. ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Students should read through this outline and ask any questions about things that you are unclear on. If any of the tasks are not suitable for your optimal learning, you are welcome to discuss an alternative that is acceptable to the tutor.

4.1. Tutorials: Attend and participate in the scheduled tutorials. We learn when we are present and engaged with the material. We learn better when we think through what is being presented and discuss it with others. Come to your tutorials with questions and ideas.

25% of your final grade is tutorial attendance and participation.

Activity	**% grade**
Tutorial Attendance	25%
Reading Responses	25%
Project	50%
Total	**100%**

4.2 Required Reading: Students are required to read the following three texts.

4.2.1 *The Peacemaker*, by Ken Sande, 3rd edition, Baker Book House, 2004

4.2.2 *Redeeming Church Conflicts* by Tara Barthel and David Edling, Baker Books, 2012

4.2.3 *Peacemaking for Families* by Ken Sande and Tom Raabe, Tyndale House, 2002

4.3 Reading Response Papers: After you have completed each book write a **1000** word response paper for each book.

This should be both an appreciative and critical reflection of what you have read. Begin with a summary of the reading, then spend the rest your response demonstrating that you have interacted with the contents *as to the impact on your heart* as you have learnt new ideas or been reminded of old ones.

Guidelines for your written work can be found on page 7.

25% of your final grade will come from your reading responses.

4.4 Project and Presentation: By making use of the course materials and readings, and any other resources you may care to use, present to the class the procedure you would follow to reconcile two Christian parties, providing biblical justification for each procedural step in your process. This will be at least a 30 minute presentation, complete with handout/s, followed by a critique from your class. ***Due November 17***

50% of your final grade will come from your class project and presentation.

4. RECOMMENDED READING

Dabler, Judy and Tara, Barthel	*Peacemaking Women*	Baker Books, 2005
Heffelfinger, Curtis	*The Peacemaking Church*	Baker Books, 2018
Kober, Ted	*Confession and Forgiveness*	Concordia, Pub., 2002
Lane, Tim and Tripp, Paul	*Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*	New Growth Press, 2006
McCoy, Bruce	*The Reluctant Peacemaker*	GC2 Press, 2021
Morrice, Dan	*Finding the Peacemakers*	Hodder Faith, 2022
Noble, Brian	*The Path of a Peacemaker*	Baker Books, 2019
Noble, Brian	*Living Reconciled*	Baker Books, 2022

Poirier, Alfred	*The Peacemaking Pastor*	Baker Books, 2006
Powlison, David	*Speaking Truth in Love*	New Growth Press, 2005
Sande, Ken and Johnson, Kevin	*Resolving Everyday Conflict*	Baker Books, 2015
Sande, Ken and Moore, Kay	*Peacefakers, Peacebreakers and Peacemakers*	Hannibal Books, 2005
Tripp, Paul	*War of Words*	Pres. & Ref. Pub. Co., 2001
	plus	
	Resources from The Ambassadors of Reconciliation	
	Resources from Peacemaker Ministries	
	Resources from Relational Wisdom 360	

'Google Scholar' gives the careful researcher access to the contents of a surprising number of books both old and new.

5. 11. RESEARCH RESOURCES

5.1. GTC library 75 Rogers Road, Manurewa. If you are a student, then you automatically receive library membership and can borrow books from our library for 1-month. Priority is given to credit students. You are welcome to come and use the library at any time between 9am and 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

We are able to post out books to students if students are willing to pay.

5.2. Christ College Library: Our friends at Christ College are happy to allow GTC students to be members of their library. While you cannot access their books without a trip to Sydney, for AU$55 per year, you can purchase access to their online database of journals and e-books. This is highly recommended for any credit student. Their librarians have also curated a large list of free online research resources.

To join the Christ College electronic library, email: library@christcollege.edu.au

5.3. Purchasing books. Books purchasing in NZ is often expensive and books can take a long time to arrive. Try your local bookstore, Christian bookstore, or online. We also recommend:

Reformers Bookshop (reformers.com.au) in Australia offers students a discount on books. Please use the (2026) discount code: **BCD26N**

Grace Books (gracebooks.co.nz) are a NZ Christian bookshop which carries a good stock of books.

5.4. Logos Software Library. **Logos Bible Software** is more than simply a Bible search tool. It is also an electronic library where you can purchase many of the books that you need. Once you purchase books you own them, even if you choose to use the free software version. GTC recommends that you subscribe to a library package (annual or monthly) in order to gain access to reference resources. It is worth noting Logos also has a student discount scheme and GTC is registered with them.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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