

The Peacemaker by Ken Sande had been recommended to me by two different preachers at two separate times. I was interested in such material, so the book seemed made to order. Part of the reason for my interest was that I had seen Christians try to be peacemakers, which is laudable, but in ways that did not seem scriptural. There was in their actions, at times, a sacrificing of what I perceived as Biblical truth.

My expectations of the book were high; and as a result, I do not think it quite lived up to my expectations for several reasons. First, it is over-written. By that I mean that the book probably could have been condensed by a third. Some of the information in the book seems a bit extraneous at times. Second, speaking of that information, much of it seems to have been affected by a worldly counseling mindset. This point is made by his biography at Amazon, "Trained as an engineer, lawyer, and mediator, Ken has conciliated hundreds of family, business, church, and legal conflicts.... He is a Certified Christian Conciliator, an Editorial Advisor for Christianity Today, a Certified Relational Wisdom Instructor, and an Emotional Intelligence Certified Instructor." I don't doubt his qualifications and abilities, but I have never heard of those things. And so, third, there are several things I did not agree with scripturally. I think his take on Matthew 18 is not how I would teach it. He puts too much emphasis on "mediation." He also could have spent more time talking about the repentance aspect of forgiveness.

All that said, the book is overall a good and fairly thorough treatment of the subject. There are few such works out there, though the sentiment is good and necessary. Whether one likes the writing style is a matter of opinion; it was just a bit dry for me. There is also much useful information. If one can sort out that which is not useful, he will be left with a pretty good guide in the ways of peacemaking. He has a great account of a man whose wife has cheated on him and how he comes to understand what true forgiveness is. His Slippery Slope diagram is very useful. Though I cannot give it the hearty recommendation I received, I would say that it is a good resource to consult in a needful time.