

## The Art of War Armed For Peace (Part 2)

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*When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him.  
(Prov. 16:7)*

- **Armed with a humble heart** - "Test me, O LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind; for your love is ever before me, and I walk continually in your truth."  
(Psalm 26:2-3)

*Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. (Matt. 7:3-5)*

- **Armed with a relational "hallpass"** - "A man's wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offense." (Prov. 19:11)

*Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.  
(Prov. 17:14)*

- **Armed with the right process** - "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or tax collector." (Matt. 18:15-17)
- **Armed with God's wisdom** - "But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness." (James 3:17-18)
- **Armed with two ears** - "He who answers before listening - that is his folly and his shame." (Prov. 18:13)

### **Good listening requires...**

- **Slowing down** - "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak..." (James 1:19a)
- **Calming down** - "...and slow to become angry, for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires." (James 1:19b-20)

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