

## Peacemaker / Pursuit of Happiness 7

If you are a Christ follower – if you are a son or daughter of God who has had the life of God blown into your soul by the redeeming work of Jesus, If this is you – **When do you look most like God – your heavenly Father?**

**Pictures of Cade and John - He's your "mini-me".** That is often said about Cade because many think he looks a lot like me. That is not a huge shock or wonder because he is my biological son. And, whether a lot or a little – son's and daughters look like their biological dads. That is not the only way we resemble our fathers.

**"Pictures of Frannie"** as her dad – Bob Powell calls her – looks a little like her dad physically – BUT – she looks a lot like him in her personality and actions. Strong, determined – entrepreneurial attitude that moved her to DC out of college to do something completely new and unknown – some to get away from me – some because that is her spirit she got from her dad. When we met – she was strongly opinionated – still is but a lot more gently opinionated now. She is her dad they say.

Where do you most resemble your earthly father? If you belong to your earthly father, & you grow up around them- you will. What about your Heavenly Father – where do you look most like Him? Jesus tells us here in vs 9 ...

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. "they'll say, hey your \_\_\_ son/daughter"

### **We most resemble our Father, when we engage others with His peace.**

We have one main truth God wants to engage us with today – we will break it into 2 parts: 1) We most ..., 2) when we ...

#### 01. We most resemble our Father, ...

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) ... for they shall be called sons of God.

- We resemble our Father because **IN Christ – we have a new identity as His son/daughter.**

John 1:12-13 (ESV) 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

#### **What does this mean – we have a new identity as His son/daughter?**

With biological dads – their DNA is in us – so we look like them a lot or a little (like Cade and I). And, it might not be so much about physical appearance as it is personality or inner traits. **But what happens when someone is adopted** – can they resemble their dad. Because – this is our circumstance with God. We have been brought into this family from outside His family – by the work of Christ. Remember, we were poor in spirit – outside the kingdom, outside His family.

Galatians 4:5-7 (NLT) 5 God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. 6 And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." 7 ... And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

**The Lemons were a huge part of this body in the first 3-4 years. Bruce was set up, Debbie did our books, and then there was Matt: only boy. He was Debbie's only son and she and Bruce were married – Bruce became his step-dad. But a few years later – Bruce decided he wanted to adopt Matt legally – and make him his own and Matt agreed. It was powerful and beautiful – but there were issues – identity issues. More than once Matt said – you're not my dad in a moment of tension and rebellion. To which Bruce answered: but I am. They had issues because Matt had come from a home where his dad was not present since his birth. No dad – that's what he knew. Now – he has a dad and he is loving, disciplining, and around. They moved when Matt was 13 or so – one time later I saw Matt and it was crazy how much he acted like Bruce – mannerisms, thoughts, responses.**

In Christ, we have a new name & a new family with all the rights & privileges that come with being God's son/daughter – a member of God's family (**heir-7**). Those are all the legal ramifications, but there is more. We also begin to take on his character, his thoughts, his actions, because just like a biological dad who's DNA is inside you, our heavenly Father has put himself in us. (**v 6**) So, we begin to look like, become like our Dad - our Father.

- We resemble our Father – because He lives in us.

Everything listed here in this passage are not if then props. These are attributes of sons/daughters.

Here – in this passage, Jesus says – we most resemble our Father – "we are sons/daughters" when ...

#### 02. ... when we engage others in His peace.

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) Blessed are the peacemakers ...

**Peacemaker** – When we hear this word – a lot of images comes to our mind.

#1 – Peacemakers – a group at FBECASE Harlingen from my home.

#2 – Colt 45 "Peacemaker" named because it helped keep peace in the wild west.

#3 – Soldiers – specifically UN soldiers come to mind – when we hear the word peacemaker

#4 – Hippies – this whole movement.

## What does it mean to be a peacemaker?

**peacemaker** (Gk. – eirēnopoios [*e – raino – poi – yos*]) – one who works or engages others to bring peace)

- **Peacemaker** is not a peacekeeper. *Jesus never said, blessed are the peacekeepers. Keeping the peace is passive – this word peacemaker implies pro-action. Keeping the peace is about avoiding conflict. Peacemakers are active – working and engaging to bring peace.*

**Remember the context of Jesus' words**, - Matthew 5:3 (ESV) "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God." Jesus begins and couches this whole passage in this idea – this is about our spirit our soul and how the condition of our spirit affects who we are and how we live. Every thought past this thought is tied this truth – In Christ, in our new identity in the Kingdom – all these things are who we are and how we live – in Christ. **peacemaker** – in this context then – is engaging others with the peace of God we have in Christ.

## What do I mean – “engage others with the peace of God we have in Christ?”

Colossians 1:20 (ESV) and through him (Jesus) to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**peacemaker** (Gk. – eirēnopoios) (*noun / e – raino – poi - yos*)

*making peace* (Gk. – eirēnopoieo – to make peace, to make things right) (*verb / e – raino – poy - yow*)

Colossians 1:21-22 (ESV) 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **reconcile** – to remove hostility, bring peace, and restore relationship

I believe - every week, every day we need to be struck fresh, moved deeply, - by the love of God in Christ that has reconciled us to Him. Maybe this will be the first time you have heard this – may it move you to your knees to cry – Savior at the feet of Jesus – save me. Or maybe this is your 500<sup>th</sup> time – may it move you to your knees to cry out “Abba Father”. Make it wake our souls to the peace we have and the peace God longs for us to engage others with.

- 1) **We were enemies of God** – hostile, no peace in here (in turmoil in our own soil because we were guilty before God – and in our soul we were not right with God). This leads to no ability to live with Him or to live like Him. *I saw this is my home several months ago. Fran and I got into a conflict, that led to a great argument, that led to not talking - that led me to say – I will not give in. There was no peace in here and so there was no peace out here. I will not go to you – is the mantra or statement of every offended party. Yet, we who have offended God in our great rebellion toward God and his ways – have not been the one to seek peace. God sought us ...*

Romans 5:8 (ESV) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- 2) **Because of Love – God reconciled us to Himself through His Son** – God made peace – by the body of His son – what love! Notice...the dying Christ is not the ultimate definition of what love is. (1 Jn 5:10) **It is the dying Christ, GIVEN by the FATHER, for you & I, the sinner. This is love. This is how God reconciled us to Him.**

## WHEN DID JESUS (*the Son*) LOOK MOST LIKE HIS FATHER?

**ANSWER: WHEN HE WAS MAKING PEACE WITH US – RECONCILING US TO GOD. because God is Peacemaker!**

Our guilt and need for punishment should have kept us from God – yet God came to us and

\* put our guilt and punishment on Jesus – so ...

\* we could have Jesus' holy and blameless life.

- 3) **In Christ, we have peace.** We have peace with God – we are right with God – but we also have Peace in here. Because of Jesus' work – we have peace with God – we are blameless and holy (right out here and in here!)

## We are called to engage others with HIS peace.

Matthew 5:9 (ESV) Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.

**We most resemble our Father, when we engage others with His peace.**



This gospel circle is something we have used to help us see how God calls us to engage others with His peace – found in his His work – not ours. Ultimately, God wants others to know the peace we have in Christ – and this only comes when others hear the gospel story – Christ's life, death, and rez for us. But that story engages others when it is told by a son or daughter with actions and life that points toward the Father. So we pray – and go to engage others in our daily life, we seek to serve, listen to their story, tell our story as sons & daughs and ultimately

– tell Jesus' story. This is simple, beautiful, powerful – and hard. **WHY?**

**Why is engaging other with the peace of God in Christ – so hard?**

**We often want to be a peacekeeper – not a peacemaker.**

*Peacekeepers are all about comfort – my comfort and avoiding conflict.*

*Engaging others as a peacemaker ensures there will be awkwardness and maybe even conflict. Not me trying to win an argument or be right. But definitely taking a risk to step into another's life and serve, and listen and open up about my lack of peace at times (Like that day with my wife) and ultimately share how real peace comes to our hearts and lives.*

• **Peacekeeping leads us to grow numb to God's peace in us.**

*I spent a lot of time that day mad & separated from my wife. Most of all I was in turmoil inside. Yes there was no peace outside – but there was also hurt, turmoil and no peace in here. When I live in the peace I have in God in Christ – I am not so easily offended, I give grace to others actions, and I'm humble because I know how big of an idiot I can be. But peacekeeping leaves me numb and seeking peace from others – not what I already have in Christ.*

• **Peacekeeping leads us to not engage others with peace. We wait for them to come to us.**

*Another thing peacekeeping does is make me wait for others to come to me. This definitely affects relationships that need to be reconciled, but I think even more it affects me from going to my friends who don't know the peace of God in Christ. I sit back – I want to avoid conflict, keep my comfort, and make others – even those who don't know God's peace – come to me.*

• **Our peacekeeping declares God is waiting and watching – not pursuing as the Peacemaker.**

*The worse thing peacekeeping does is distort the person and character of God.*

He has heard my confession in this – it is one of the cries of my heart over the last year – and even today.

**Is it yours? God I have made you a watcher – and me the initiator of peace.**

Hear God's response to our broken view of peacemaking. **His love and power is overwhelming and invites us to once again taste afresh the "Peacemaker" who reconciles us – and gives us peace with Him.**

**The cross declares that God - came to us first.**

**Romans 5:8 (ESV) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

That while we were yet sinners – you came to reconcile us – to make things right. You didn't wait on us – you couldn't wait on us because we could not come and make things right.

- **God didn't just make the first move – He came to completely reconcile us to Him.**

You came and were despised and rejected. But you didn't stop as men and women cursed and abused – you died for the very ones who were rejecting you – for me and for all of us.

- **God doesn't stop now – He keeps coming after us – even though we still despise and reject Him.**

The cross reveals Jesus as the great Seeker – who never stops coming after me and you – the ones he seeks.

- **God doesn't just forgive – He's give Peace – real Peace.**

**Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Jesus is Prince of Peace. By his work he now lives in us giving us a new name, new identity as sons and daughters of God and we most like him,

**We most resemble our Father, when we engage others with His Peace.**

*A29 Assessment Conf. in Minneapolis. 7 couples coming and saying – we want to spend our lives planting churches who declare that Christ brings peace. It was amazing to get to know these couples, hear their stories, and serve them. Tim and Rene Allison are outside Chicago. Dad preached prosperity gospel – took over the church after his dad's death and in the last 2 years has replanted this church as a gospel centered church that declares not if we do we get from God – but rather the gospel of peace that says – because Christ has done we now have peace with God and peace in us in the midst of this broken world.*

*He wept as he spoke of his dad – but he wept because He believed his allegiance was to Heavenly Father – not earthly. Earthly would be proud – he said –listen to God and do what He says. I am. How could I not follow the Father who gave His son for me and now accepts me at His own cost. He wept, I wept, we all wept. Tim is quiet guy who is bold about Jesus. He resembles his earthly Father because he is engaging others with God's peace.*

**Blessing:**

II Corinthians 5:19–20 (NLT) 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"