



THE BEATITUDES Series • Sermon Notes

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

— Matthew 5:9

Bible Texts: Matthew 5:2–10ⁱ (key verse: Matthew 5:9); Galatians 4:6ⁱⁱ; Ephesians 2:14ⁱⁱⁱ; Romans 12:18^{iv}; Hebrews 12:2^v.

Jesus’ seventh Beatitude is, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” He is talking about more than people who simply stay out of arguments. The Beatitudes show what begins to take shape in a life that belongs to Christ. A peacemaker is willing to step into strained or broken relationships with humility and grace, hoping to see something restored. That was very different from the Pax Romana. Rome could produce order, but much of that order rested on power and submission. The peace Jesus gives works differently. It does not depend on overpowering the other person or proving who is right. It seeks reconciliation. In conflict, we can become peace breakers, making matters worse, or “peace fakers,” acting as if nothing is wrong while resentment grows underneath. Jesus calls His followers to another path: making peace and bringing something of God’s shalom—His wholeness and peace—into our relationships.

1. Peacemaking Begins with What God Is Doing in Us

Galatians 4:6 says God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts and made us His children. That matters because real peacemaking cannot be produced by sheer willpower. We may be able to keep quiet for a while or avoid an argument, but only God can change the motives and reactions underneath. As the Holy Spirit works in us, He teaches us to respond differently. Jesus says peacemakers will be called “sons of God.” In His day, that kind of expression carried the idea of showing the character of one’s father. When we approach conflict humbly, stop keeping score, admit when we are wrong, and forgive, we begin to reflect our Heavenly Father. We do not have to win every disagreement to know who we are. Our security is in Christ. Knowing that can help us put down our defenses and look for a way toward healing.



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Reflection: When conflict comes, am I more concerned with being right, or with responding in a way that reflects my Father?

2. Peacemakers Don't Just Talk About Peace

Ephesians 2:14 says that Christ Himself is our peace. He did not stay at a safe distance from our sin and brokenness. He came to us, went to the cross, and made a way for sinners to be reconciled to God. That is what peacemaking looks like: moving toward what is broken instead of waiting for someone else to fix it. In our relationships, that may mean making the first phone call, listening before answering, admitting our part, offering forgiveness, or asking how the relationship can be repaired. Romans 12:18 keeps us realistic: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." Sometimes peace will not be accepted. We cannot control another person's response, but we can take responsibility for our own. This is also one reason Christian community matters. Living closely with other believers gives us real-life opportunities to practice patience, forgiveness, humility, and peace.

Reflection: Is there someone I need to approach, listen to, apologize to, or forgive in order to pursue peace?

3. Peacemaking Makes Us More Like Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 tells us that Jesus endured the cross "for the joy that was set before him." His sacrifice would accomplish something wonderful: people separated from God could be brought back to Him. That turns the world's idea of joy on its head. We are often told that happiness comes from getting our way, protecting our comfort, or making sure everyone knows we were right. Jesus shows us something better. There is a deeper joy in surrender, obedience, forgiveness, and restored relationships. There is real freedom in releasing bitterness, seeing a relationship begin to heal, or simply



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knowing we did what was right before God. Peacemaking can be costly, but it makes us more like Jesus and brings a glimpse of God's shalom into ordinary life.

Reflection: Where might God be asking me to trade the satisfaction of being right for the joy of becoming more like Jesus?

Closing Thought

Pastor Bo ended with three practical reminders: watch your first reaction, remember who you are in Christ, and stay connected to genuine Christian community. When tension rises, ask: Am I breaking peace, faking peace, or making peace? Because our identity is secure in Christ, we do not need every argument to end with us on top. Jesus is our peace. He has already done the hardest work of reconciliation at the cross. Now we carry His peace into our homes, jobs, friendships, and church. We may not be able to make every relationship right, but as far as it depends on us, we can move toward peace rather than away from it.



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ⁱ **Matthew 5:9 - English Standard Version**

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

ⁱⁱ **Galatians 4:6 - English Standard Version**

⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

ⁱⁱⁱ **Ephesians 2:14 - English Standard Version**

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

^{iv} **Romans 12:18 - English Standard Version**

¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

^v **Hebrews 12:2 - English Standard Version**

² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.