



# SUNDAY EVENING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** Making Peace in the Midst of Conflict

**Passage:** Ephesians 4:25-32

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** The fact that the lack of peace is so pervasive is nothing new. We can trace it all the way back to the book of Genesis. Humans have been at war with God ever since Adam and Eve sinned. We have had strife in the home and every other possible realm up till now.

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”  
(Matthew 5:9)*

The Bible is a book of peace as the word “peace” appears over 400 times in Scripture, with many other indirect references.

As we consider this beatitude of peace, we see that there are three types of people:

### 1. Peace Breakers

Those who break peace in the home and church often cause trouble and division.

*“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”  
(Romans 16:17-18)*

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)*



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2. Peace Fakers

Some of us are naturally inclined to seek peace at any cost to avoid conflict with others.

*"If things are not resolved, then that peace you're trying so very hard to maintain by avoiding the issues will get harder and harder to keep. Eventually there will come a total breakdown in the relationship...it can die while everything on the surface looks peaceful." - Phil Morgan*

3. Peace Makers

Peace must be actively made because it never happens by chance.

*"Hatred looks for a victim, while love seeks a victory. The man of war throws stones, and the peacemaker builds a bridge out of those stones." - Warren Wiersbe*

*"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" (James 4:1)*

**I. Speak the Truth in Love (Verse 25)**

Conflict cannot be resolved on a foundation of falsehood. Lies don't build peace; they bury landmines. For Christians, truth is not optional.

Lying may feel like a shortcut to peace, but it actually prolongs problems. Real unity is built on truth spoken in love.

**II. Express Anger Appropriately (Verse 26)**

Paul tells us: You will get angry. But don't let anger become sin. It's possible to feel anger without fueling destruction.

- A. Be angry and don't sin.  
Anger is often selfish—a response to not getting our way.
- B. Don't let the sun go down on your wrath.

When we let anger linger, it festers into resentment.



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C. Don't give the devil a foothold.

Bitterness is like giving Satan a guest room in your heart. And once he's in, he starts rearranging the furniture.

*"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."  
(Proverbs 15:1)*

### **III. Watch Your Words (Verse 29)**

Words have weight. They can heal or they can harm.

Jesus said that we will give an account for every careless word. That means sarcasm, gossip, shouting, and silent treatments are all on the record.

### **IV. Put Away the Past (Verse 31-32)**

Conflict resolution doesn't work if you're still keeping score.

Forgiveness doesn't mean ignoring wrong. It means refusing to let yesterday's wounds poison today's peace. If God forgave us through Christ, we can forgive one another.

**Conclusion:** Peace doesn't come by avoiding conflict—it comes by handling it God's way. That means speaking the truth in love, expressing anger without sin, watching our words, and letting go of the past. These aren't just good habits; they're gospel-shaped responses. Jesus didn't hold onto His rights or keep a record of our wrongs—He forgave, fully and freely. If He did that for us, we can do the same for one another. Real unity isn't built on silence or scorekeeping—it's built on grace, truth, and hearts willing to follow Christ's example.

