

Peacemakers

April 2, 2017

I. Introduction

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

- *The biblical concept of peace is Shalom: completeness or wholeness in every area of life.*

1. A peacemaker is not a trouble maker

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

2. A peacemaker is a child of God. A trouble maker is a child of the devil.

1 John 3:10 This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

II. Two Ways To Make Peace

1. Make Proactive Peace

- *A peacemaker is not just a peace keeper.*

A. Peace is made through active choice.

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

1. Peace is usually the tougher choice in the short term with the greater reward in the long term.
2. A peacemaker strives to stop conflict before it starts.
 - Real peace is never passive peace.

Romans 14:19 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Romans 14:19-21 Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

B. Personal choice promotes public peace.

Hebrews 12:14-15 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

- *When peace is absent, bitterness is present.*

1. Choose peace with your words.

Psalms 34:12-14 Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

- A peacemaker is not a noise maker.

James 3:14-18 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. 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 reap a harvest of righteousness.

2. Choose peace with your attitude.

- Peace produces righteousness.

Proverbs 14:30 A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.

- A peacemaker is not an excuse maker.
- Peacemakers make a difference and not just excuses.

2. *Make Reactive Peace*

Matthew 5:38-42 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

A. A peacemaker gives more than is required.

Romans 12:17-21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. Do not forfeit your peace with God in order to have your own justice with another.
 - Leave room for God’s wrath.
2. When we trade peace for vengeance we open the door to evil in our lives.

Matthew 5:43-48 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

B. A peacemaker loves more than is expected.

1. The child of God will often be called to do the opposite of what is expected in times of conflict.
 - There is a cost to being a peacemaker.
 - You will pay the price for peace.
 - Making peace will mean laying something down.

2. Jesus is the ultimate Peacemaker.

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

Ephesians 2:14-18 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

- Jesus paid the price for peace.

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.