

Leveraging - Peace

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We ALL have the opportunity to be peace makers!

Shalom (*i-ray'-nay*) - to join or bind together that which has been separated. To bring harmony, rest, reconciliation, justice.

How do we take what has been torn and put it back together?

Matthew 10:12-13

As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.

QUESTION -

What stops you from being a peacemaker? What is appealing about being a trouble maker? What problems maybe come from being a trouble maker?

There is a difference between peace-making and peace-keeping.

Peacekeepers walk on eggshells to not upset anyone.

Peacekeepers don't share how they really feel so they don't start an argument.

Peacekeepers avoid conflict and apologize for things that they haven't even done.

Peacekeepers always feel taken advantage of and find their identity in not making waves.

1. Peacemakers are love-driven over hate-driven

Ephesians 4:2-3

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

It's easy to hate our enemies. It's easy to tolerate our enemies. But it's hard to love our enemies.

QUESTION -

Identify any enemy in your life, What is your heart stance toward that person?

2. Peacemakers are not passive people, but pursuing people

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Peacemakers pursue reconciliation at the risk of their own comfort.

QUESTION -

Is there someone to whom you need to make an offering of peace? Do you have thoughts toward another, or does someone have an offense against you that is preventing you from worshipping fully?

3. Peacemakers are spirit-responsive over flesh-reactive

Romans 8:6

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

The secret to *speaking* with power and peace is *listening* to the source of power and peace.

Peacemaking is a three-way conversation with the Holy Spirit at the center.

QUESTION -

In what situation do you need to pursue a Holy Spirit response rather than continuing to react?

4. Peacemakers are committed to truth-telling and truth-hearing

2 Timothy 2:23-26

Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Christians should be involved in our world! The issues isn't whether or not we step into the hard places in our world, the issue is how we are doing it!

Talk as if you're right, listen as if you're wrong

QUESTION -

**How are you walking out your passions? Are you being kind or combative?
Are you listening, or just talking over others?**

5. Peacemakers remove specks before swinging logs

Matthew 7:3-4

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?

6. Peacemakers are about winning the person more than winning the argument

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. **1 Corinthians 9:19,20**

QUESTION -

**Who do you need to bring the gospel to?
Are you more concerned about winning or about the person you are in conflict with?**

Peacemakers are to pursue healing!

Ephesians 2:15-16

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.

QUESTION -

How can you leverage peace today?