

- ❖ **Beatitudes:** Seeing our need for God leads to us mourn over our sin, which leads us to honest humility before God and others, leading us to pursue God's way of living every day: being merciful to others, being devoted to God in every area, pursuing peace with others at all costs, and enduring persecution because of Jesus ... **This is being salt and light**
- ❖ **Peacemaking:** not being passive or ignoring conflict ... Intentionally pursuing peace between people thru reconciliation and healing ... Peacemaking **centers on the gospel** and **focuses on relationships** ... It's determined, uncomfortable, and costly ... Peacemaking requires humility, mercy, and a pure heart – ***hungering and thirsting for righteousness!***
 - Ken Sande: 1) **peace-faking:** peace maintained by avoiding conflict or pretending conflict doesn't exist (ignore hard conversations, end friendships, change churches, seek divorce) ... 2) **peace-breaking:** peace maintained by beating the opposition before you (being right and getting your own way is more important than the relationship) ... Peace-faking sacrifices truth ... Peace-breaking sacrifices love
 - A peacemaker doesn't sacrifice truth or love ... **Instead, a peacemaker sacrifices themselves for others ... Rm14:19, "let's pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another" ... 12:18, "If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" ... 1Pe3:8-12 ... A peacemaker models The Peacemaker ... It's evidence that the gospel is at work in you**
 - Being a peacemaker concerns confronting sin, discussing hard conversations, handling difficult situations, while keeping the gospel central and maintaining the relationship in focus ... Some offenses can be easily overlooked or handled ... Some can damage a relationship where forgiveness and reconciliation are required ... Some situations can be handled privately, and some need other people involved*
 - **The greatest obstacle to pursuing peace is ourselves** ... A first step in peacemaking is addressing the sin within ... It's so easy to see the speck in someone else's eye than to see the log in our own eye ... The sin of the left is just as dark as the sin of the right ... The sin in you is just as dark as the sin in me ... Remember **Mt5:3-6**
 - Maybe you have a relationship with a friend or family member that's broken ... Have you asked the Lord, "What do I need to repent of?" ... **"God, search me, reveal my heart, and expose the offensive ways in me"** (Ps139:23-24)
 - Sometimes it's not so much what you say but **HOW you say it** and **WHY you say it** ... Not everything that pops into your head needs to be said ... Not everything needs to be shared or reposted on social media ... How does what you're saying point people to the gospel? How does it build up a person's faith in Christ? ... **2Tm2:22-26**
 - **CRUSE: PEACEMAKERS ADDRESS SIN REDEEMPTIVELY** ... We're not just pointing out the wrong, but we're also asking, "**How does the gospel need to be applied here?**" ... **2Cr5:20** – God is making His appeal through us ... **We model The Peacemaker**
- ❖ **Sons of God:** Peacemakers display God's visible presence ... By pursuing peace, we present opportunities for people to see God, to hear the gospel, to apply the gospel, to be reconciled to God ... In this world, our weapon is not a sword but the Cross ... We engage this world not through force but humility, mercy, being pure in heart and as peacemakers, no matter what type of persecution comes our way