

Matthew 5:9 - Kingdom Character – Peacemakers

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they

Scriptures:

James 3:17-18 - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Matthew 24:6 - And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Hebrews 12:14 - Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord ...

Luke 2:14 -
“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace,
goodwill toward men!”

Ephesians 4:26-27 - “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

Isaiah 57:20-21 - But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 17:20-23 - I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent

G1518 –
eirēnopoios (i-
ray-nop-oy-os')

shall be called sons of God.

G2564 – “to be called (state) v. — to be or become designated with a quality or the name of a common noun that reflects a quality.”

Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Romans 12:18 - If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Romans 14:16-19 - Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Galatians 5:22-23a - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Acts 4:13 - Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

G5207 – “child n. — a son or daughter of any age; sometimes referred to collectively as children. “

Being a peacemaker is one of the ways we testify about our faith to the world.

“Our religion is an unsavory thing to men. We must put salt with it, and this salt must be our quietness and peacemaking disposition.” (Spurgeon, 1997) Page 140

Our religion is unlikely to bring anyone into the church. As peacemakers, we bring our religion to them in the likeness of their Savior Jesus.

A peacemaker's primary work is the work of Jesus Christ. He came to make peace between sinful man and Holy God. One of the activities of a peacemaker is prayer. Praying for the lost to be at peace with God through Christ will bring peace to their soul and to the world around them.

All Christian ministry is peacemaking work. Anything that is done in the church is to facilitate peace between people and their God or between people and other people.

Application:
~ Be at peace with God.
~ Walk in the peace of God.
~ Be a peacemaker.

The peacemaker's primary objective is reconciliation, and their primary tool is forgiveness. The peacemaker is quick to seek forgiveness if they have offended someone and they are quick offer forgiveness if someone has offended them.

In Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, He asked God to help us achieve unity (John 17:20-23).

'peacemaker' – only occurrence.

What is a peacemaker?

What does it mean to be 'called sons of God'? When a doctor begins to practice medicine, they will be called doctors. When someone passes the bar and begins to practice law, they will be called a lawyer. When a Christian becomes a peacemaker, they will be called sons of God. The world will see the truth by your works, and they will acknowledge it. The next beatitude proves that they don't always respond in our favor, but they will notice.

They bear the likeness of their father. When someone sees with me one of my sons, they often remark that they look like me. It is hard to deny the familial connection because of the similarity of our appearance.

As Peter and John were being told not to preach about Jesus, their bold response amazed them and revealed something to them (Acts 4:13).

Who will call the peacemakers a son of God? Because this is describing the character traits of a Christian, it is not God who will say this but the world. As we live as peacemakers, the world will recognize that it is God working in us to make us like Jesus.

“God is peaceful, long-suffering, and tender, full of loving-kindness, pity and compassion. So, too, is this peacemaker. Being like God, he bears his Father's image.” (Spurgeon, 1997) page 138

Notes:

The sixth beatitude was calling us to be 'pure in heart' and (James 3:17-18) tells us that being a peacemaker is the natural consequence of a pure heart. Purity of heart can lead to peace within us. We know that we are not warring with God in our sin.

We cannot be peacemakers and be at peace with sin. We must wage a constant and ruthless war with our own sin, trusting God through faith to fight for us before we can strive for peace with others.

It is hard to be at peace when the world is such a mess. Jesus said this was how the world was going to be, especially as it relates to the end times (Matt. 24:6). While the primary application of that verse is to nations, we can also see that it is true in all areas of life and culture, like conservatives and liberals.

The peacemaker loves peace, first with God, and then with others. It becomes a primary focus of their heart (Heb. 12:14).

At the announcement of the birth of Christ, the angel declared God's desire for peace in the world (Luke 2:14).

The peacemaker may get angry, as does everyone, but he maintains self-control and does not allow his anger any form of expression (Eph. 4:26-27).

Regardless of the circumstances the peacemaker seeks to make peace. The peacemaker ignores who is to blame and seeks peace and reconciliation.

The world is not at peace. Anger and division are widespread. The unbelieving world cannot know peace because peace is only possible through faith in Christ (Isa. 57:20-21).

It has gotten so bad in the US, that there have been suggestions that we could be headed for a civil war (2023). The world needs Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Only He can bring peace to the human heart (John 14:27). As believers, we are called to be ministers of peace – to be peacemakers. The rest of the world may not see peace until they see it in God's church and people.

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