

The Foundations of a Better Culture: *Blessed are the Peacemakers*

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

Positive cultural shifts take place within a congregation when people are willing to abandon traditional practices to find better and more Biblical ways to do the things of God.

- A new mindset of service that wants to do more (Mt 5:47; Mk 14:8)
- The way of selecting men to be shepherds—looking to spiritual leaders
- The manner in which discipline is practiced—with a heart that wants to bring them back

In this seventh beatitude, the Lord calls upon His people to take action. Make peace is the order from Heaven. Everyone enjoys peace. Most want peace. But to make peace, is to enter into an environment where peace doesn't exist. The opposite of peace is conflicts and wars. The disciple is the maker of peace.

As with all the beatitudes before, the context is spiritual. The arena where this takes place is hearts. The way this is accomplished is one on one. Peace make has nothing to do with Nobel Peace Award. It has nothing to do with world leaders hammering out agreements across a bargaining table. This is not about armies, ships and treaties.



A. Peace begins with God

- the angels announced at Jesus' _____, peace on earth (Lk 2:14)
- the prophet Isaiah defined the Messiah as 'The _____ of Peace' (9:6)
The work of the Messiah was bringing peace (Isa 2:2-4 swords will be hammered into plows)
Jesus preached peace (Eph 2:17)

The peace Jesus has in mind is _____ with God (Eph 2:16; 2 Cor 5:18-19)
Rom 5:1 having been _____ by faith, we have peace with God
Col 1:20 having made peace through the _____ of His cross

- It is the peace of God that _____ our hearts (Phil 4:7)
- The peace of Christ is to _____ our hearts (Col 3:15)

How would you describe hearts that do not have peace?

1. the peace that Jesus offers is _____ than the world (Jn 14:27)

The words of this beatitude were spoken in a climate in which most Jews were looking for a way to break free from Roman oppression and even to have a military kingdom. In their minds, peace would only be accomplished through the defeat of Rome.



- (a) Jesus defeated this military mindset many times
Jn 18:36 If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would be fighting
Mt 26:52 Peter was told, Put your sword away

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What does Peace with God look like?

- (b) Peacemaking takes place when disciples teach others how to be reconciled to God
- Peacemaking begins with God

Matthew 10:34 seems like Jesus went back on His words? How does this fit with our beatitude of peacemakers?

B. The second layer of application is making peace with each other

To have peace with God but not with each other defeats the intention of this beatitude

- the historical examples of brethren fighting, dividing and splitting churches is proof that peacemaking is hard

James 4:1

- Heb 12:14 _____ peace with all men
- Rom 12:18 If possible, as far as it _____ on you, be at peace with all men

Resolving conflicts among each other involves grace, forgiveness, patience, love and Christ

The Steps Toward Peace Among Each Other

1. S _____ upon common ground of Jesus Christ (Eph 2:11-14; Gal 3:26-29)
2. S _____ pushing each other's emotional buttons (Prov 12:18)
3. S _____ gets you no where (Rom 14:1-2; 15:1)
4. S _____ our bonds only makes us better (Eph 4:11-13)
5. S _____ to create an atmosphere where voices can be heard, discussion can be expressed and God's word is understood
6. S _____ ourselves to each other (Eph 5:21) - be humble
7. S _____ the language of peace (forgiveness, apologies, support and help)
8. S _____ strife is something God hates and cannot be tolerated (Prov 6:14; Rom 16:17)
9. S _____ for the sake of peace when no other options are available (Acts 15:39-40)
10. S _____ your convictions for the sake of peace is not a price you should pay

John Lennon's Imagine

Imagine there's no Heaven, it's easy if you try...
No hell below us, above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one



Would Lennon's Imaginary hope for world peace work?

