

Make Peace, not War

Beatitudes – Blessed are the peacemakers – Matthew 5:9

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

“Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. As a peacemaker the lawyer has superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough.”

- Abraham Lincoln - 16th president of US (1809 - 1865)

Peace is something many of us cry for, but few of us reach for.

I am not talking about peace in times of war. I respect and admire the men and women who give themselves to keep peace. I am not talking about the police forces that risk their lives each day to provide a safe environment.

I am talking about the peace between neighbors and church members, between siblings and parents, between co-workers and clients. Peace is hard to come by.

Is there someone that you are not at peace with right now? Why?

A brief look into the history of man shows that we have a hard time living in peace. In part, Satan is to blame, but man has contributed much as well. There really has never been a time where the entire world experienced peace. We prefer to make war, not peace. Whether it is a nation or your neighbor, we would rather defend our own and fight to the end than make peace. What is wrong with us?

Why is it that we are more inclined to dig in our heels and fight to the end rather than make peace?

Peace is boring, or at least that is what Satan would have us to believe. James explains why we do not have peace when he states, “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members?” Let me put it in our terms. Why do we not have peace? Because we are self-centered little punks.

I know that sounds harsh, but it is the truth.

Think of the last time you had a conflict with someone. What ways were you thinking of yourself?

“...Live in peace with one another.”
1 Thessalonians 5:13

“Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”
Hebrews 12:14

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Romans 5:1

Jesus calls us to be peacemakers. In fact, it is peacemakers that are happy. Paul calls us to live in peace with one another (1 Thessalonians 5:13).

Ken Sande in his book The Peacemaker says:

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. They draw continually on the goodness and power of Jesus Christ, and then they bring his love, mercy, forgiveness, strength, and wisdom to the conflicts of daily life.¹

How often can you say that you walk into a conflict with this attitude?

The author of Hebrews tells us that peace and righteousness are intertwined (Hebrews 12:14). The goal of the peacemaker is to help see their part in the conflict and then resolve the conflict based on the truth of God's Word. In reality, two people cannot be at peace until they recognize and resolve the wrong attitudes and actions that have caused the conflict between them. Then, they must bring themselves to God for cleansing. Being a peacemaker is essentially the result of a holy life and the call to others to embrace the gospel of holiness.

If we considered holiness as the goal, how would it affect our conflicts?

It all comes back to God. God is all about peace (2 Thessalonians 3:16). This may be hard to grasp because much of what the Bible says has caused conflict. Think about why, though. The Word of God is truth, and if we want to be self-centered then we will have issues with what the Bible says. God wants to have peace with his creation, but that peace only comes through Christ (Romans 5:1).

So, those who are peacemakers have made the trek through the beatitudes. As we experience purity of heart, we will be in a position to be a peacemaker, which is a ministry God desires all of His children to have.

“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18).

God made peace with each believer and then in turn each believer is to help others seek peace with God and each other. Those who seek to be peacemakers shall be called sons of God.

Is there someone in your life right now that you know you are not at peace with? What do you need to do to make peace?

Peacemaking seeks to bring man to a point of recognizing he is an enemy of God, but helping him to see that he can be a friend of God.

¹ Ken Sande Peacemakers, Baker, Michigan, 11.

“Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!”
2 Thessalonians 3:16

Why are these peacemakers so happy? God explains that they shall be called sons of God. They are at peace with their Creator.

Although we may never have complete peace on earth, those who commit to being peacemakers will have a peace from within that will come to fullness in the kingdom of God.

Are you a peacemaker?

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?

Recommended Resource: [The Peacemaker](#) by Ken Sande

