



THEY'RE PEACEMAKERS

February 21, 2021

Matthew 5:9

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MESSAGE NOTES

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. — Matthew 5:9

Peacemakers release tension, they don't intensify it. Peacemakers seek solutions and find no delight in arguments. Peacemakers calm the waters. Peacemakers work hard to keep an offense from occurring. And if it has occurred, they strive for resolution. Peacemakers lower their voices rather than raise them. Peacemakers generate more light than heat. — Chuck Swindoll, Simple Faith

Peacemakers:

1. Interact graciously

It is precisely when the capacity to use force is the greatest that the strength not to do so is the clearest and most constructive. ... gentleness stems from the accurate knowledge of one's strength. When we are secure, as Christ was, we can forego causing injury to others and instead work for peace and justice. — Source Unknown

2. Approach humbly

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. — James 3:16 – 18

3. Listen patiently

In every interaction with another human being, we have the opportunity to bless or curse. We bless by listening and entering into conversation. We bless with eye contact. With patience. By not finishing their sentences for them. By staying in their "frame of reference" and not self-referencing. — Regi Campbell

4. Encourage generously

... Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. — 1 Thessalonians 5:13 – 15

- Live in peace with each other (seek harmony in all your relationships)
- Warn the idle and disruptive (humbly confront what needs confronting)
- Encourage the discouraged (build up the courage of people who are unsure)
- Help the weak (come alongside those who are struggling with issues)
- Be patient (hang in there with each other as you grow)
- Don't retaliate when others fail (no gossip, no revenge, no grudges, just forgiveness)
- Be kind to each other (care for the needs of others with warmth and interest)

5. Pray continuously

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. — Philippians 4:5

One of the discoveries we make in prayer is that the closer we come to God, the closer we come to all our brothers and sisters in the human family. God is not a private God. The God who dwells in our inner sanctuary is also the God who dwells in the inner sanctuary of others. As we pray, He draws us together. — Henri Nouwen

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you define peace?
- In what way is peacemaking different than pursuing personal peace?
- Can you share about someone you know who clearly has the ability to communicate peace and create peace in their relationships? What is it about that person or what do they do that specifically leads to peace?
- Why is Jesus given the title “Prince of Peace?” What kind of peace did Jesus establish when he died on the cross? How did he promote relational peace during his earthly ministry?
- In what ways might promoting peace even involve confrontation and conflict?
- Name some of the contributing factors toward a lack of peace in so many relationships?
- What qualities does it take to be a peacemaker?
- Take some time to think back over the 5 steps to peacemaking from this past weekend. Which of the 5 are you pretty good at and which of them is a real struggle for you?
- How do you think it affects others when we start a conflict resolution process by listening and confessing rather than talking or making accusations?
- What role does prayer play in peacemaking?
- Are there some relationships in your life right now where these principles of peacemaking could be applied this week?