

Refine Women's Ministry
The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12
Beatitude #7: Happy Are the Peacemakers
November 8, 2017 by Kim Peelen

So when the devil throws your sins in your face and declares that you deserve death and hell, tell him this: 'I admit that I deserve death and hell, what of it? For I know One who suffered and made satisfaction on my behalf. His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God, and where He is there I shall be also!' Martin Luther

The seventh characteristic in a believer's life that will bring true happiness is being a peacemaker. As we progress through our study of The Beatitudes, their interconnectedness becomes evident. A true disciple of Jesus cannot randomly select some Beatitudes and reject others; one cannot be a peacemaker until he follows the first six. One must begin with a beggarly attitude toward sinfulness that cries out to God because there is nothing of value within and no way to earn any merit. Then as I mourn my desperate, helpless situation before a sovereign and perfectly holy God, I am humble and meek, resulting in a hunger and thirst after righteousness. Next, God extends His mercy that cleanses and purifies my heart. Then, and only then, can I be a peacemaker, one who proclaims God's Gospel of Truth in order to restore the peace forfeited by our sinfulness. This message of peace offends the world because it does not want to deal with sin, so it retaliates and persecutes those who live righteously.

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 [NASB]

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
- 2 He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,
- 3 "Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 "Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 "Blessed are the **gentle [meek]**, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 "Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 "Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 "Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.
- 9 "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 "Blessed are those who have been **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.
- 12 "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Theme of Peace in The Bible

The theme of peace is throughout Scripture, beginning in Genesis and ending in Revelation. Peace reigned before the Fall, but was interrupted when man sinned; at the Cross, peace became a reality again when Christ became our peace through His

blood sacrifice. Today, Christians can have peace in their hearts because of a relationship with Christ. In the future Christ will come again as The Prince of Peace, establishing His kingdom in which there is an eternal age of peace.

For He [Christ] Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall. Ephesians 2:14

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me [Paul], practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you. Philippians 4:9

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, Isaiah 9:6, 7a

The Meaning of Peace

Some define peace as the absence of conflict, but peace is much more than that. In Hebrew, *shalom*, when spoken to a friend means “I desire for you all the righteousness and good God can give” and not “may you have no conflicts”. There is a difference between a truce and peace. A truce is simply halting the hostilities for a time. Some think peace is achieved the instant guns are put down and shooting stops. But, unless the underlying causes are RESOLVED, even if the open hostility ceases, the conflict can be driven underground where it smolders and slowly destroys both sides. Any student of history can cite many examples of this type of man-made peace, which is not peace at all. Two people at war should not be kept from seeing one another, rather they need to come together to resolve the cause of their conflict.

Biblical peace never evades the issues or grants ‘peace at any price’. Rather, true peace of God is the presence of righteousness that conquers the problem and builds a bridge between two warring parties so they love each other. Obviously this can be painful, difficult, and full of anguish, but real peace results.

The meaning of peace is resolving conflict by the truth, as you bring to bear the righteousness of God. John MacArthur.

Prerequisites to Peace

True peace is always accompanied by righteousness and purity. One cannot achieve peace at the expense of righteousness. Being a peacemaker requires telling the truth to a world that loves falsehood; confronting the non-believer with their unrighteousness creates conflict. But this conflict will be resolved when they put their faith in Jesus Christ instead of in themselves or a false religion. A Christian is not a peacemaker in that he never causes strife, rather he offers true peace to those he confronts that correctly respond to God’s truth. Beware of those who appear to be peacemakers, but really have no convictions.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. James 3:17

The Opposition to Peace is Error and Sin

If truth and righteousness define peace, then error and sin are the enemies of peace. Jeremiah 17:9 says *The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick*, and the result - *There is no peace for the wicked, says the LORD [Is. 48:22]*. An internally defiled heart never produces peace because peace is a result of holiness and righteousness: *And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:18.*

Jeremiah 8:11 *They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.* Many talk about peace but never experience it because they ignore their sin.

"Most...believe that their major problem is something that has happened to them, and that their solution is to be found within. In other words, they believe that they have an alien problem that is to be resolved with an inner solution. What the Gospel says, however, is that we have an inner problem that demands an alien solution- a righteousness that is not our own." Albert Mohler

Maker of Peace

God is the author of peace:

1 Cor. 14:33 - for God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

Jesus Christ is the manifestation of peace:

Romans 5:1, 10 - Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our LORD Jesus Christ. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

The Holy Spirit is the agency of peace:

Galatians 5:22 - The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace. . .

When you become a Christian through salvation in Jesus Christ, the Triune God: the God of peace, the Prince of Peace, and Spirit of peace dwells within you - the tranquil serenity of righteousness resides within you and His peace stays even while living in a world of turmoil and troubles.

Messengers of Peace:

If peacemakers are dispatched, then the situation must include enmity, feelings of hostility, hatred, or animosity that enemies have for one another. As God's Peace Corps, we bring God's message of peace into this battleground.

- **Have Made Peace with God through Salvation in Jesus Christ**

Before salvation, we were at war with God. But when Jesus Christ's perfect righteousness was imputed to us through faith, we have peace with God, forever.

Our peace with God is not fragile; it is stable. When we sin, God is displeased, and He will move to correct us and convict us of our sin. But He does not go to war against us. His bow is no longer bent, and the arrows of His wrath are no longer aimed at our hearts. He does not rattle His sword every time we break the treaty. R.C Sproul

- **Help Others Make Peace with God**

The best peacemaker is one who preaches the gospel so men and women clearly see their alienation from God and help them make peace with God through Jesus.

Martin Luther told the Gospel as the story of a rich and divine bridegroom, Christ, who marries a poor, wicked harlot, redeems her from all her evil, and adorns her with all His goodness. *“Christ is full of grace, life and salvation. The soul is full of sins, death, and damnation. Now let faith come between them and sins, death, and damnation will be Christ's, while grace, life and salvation will be the soul's; for if Christ is a bridegroom, He must take upon Himself the things which are His bride's and bestow upon her the things that are His. If He gives her His body and very self, how shall He not give her all that is His? And if He takes the body of the bride, how shall He not take all that is hers?...Her sins cannot now destroy her, since they are laid upon Christ and swallowed up by Him. And she has that righteousness in Christ, her husband, of which she may boast as of her own and which she can confidently display alongside her sins in the face of death and hell and say, “If I have sinned, yet my Christ, in whom I believe, has not sinned, and all His is mine and all mine is His.”*

- **Help Others Make Peace with Each Other**

Peacemakers help build bridges between people. They direct warring people to become poor in spirit and admit that their bitterness and hatred is wrong. Each must humble themselves and then hunger and thirst after God's standard of righteousness so their hearts are cleansed and become pure in heart. Obedience to each Beatitude establishes the necessary steps to accomplish true peace.

In your groups discuss: 2 Corinthians 5:14 -21

*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;
and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.
Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.
Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1. Based on the verses, how are you to live if you belong to Jesus Christ?
2. How are you to look on others?
3. What has God done for you?
4. How did He do it?
5. What is the ministry God has given to you?
6. Explain 2 Corinthians 5:20 *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*
7. Explain how your role as God's Ambassador looks in your life - at home, at church, in your community.
8. Do only unbelievers need peacemakers to help them be reconciled?

For They Shall be Called Sons of God

There is power in a name, it holds significance as it identifies you with your family, your ancestors, and those who will come after. In this phrase, Jesus selects the Greek word translated sons, *huioi*, that emphasizes a position of dignity and honor rather than the word, *tekna*, which means children. Our status as sons of God exists now and will continue throughout eternity and He declares our privileged position as heirs of God Almighty and with that, the honor to participate in bringing true,

lasting, perfect peace to a world full of enmity and conflict. What a privilege, what a promise, what happiness!

Save us from the delusion of those who fail to go far in religion,
Who are concerned but not converted,
Who have another heart but not a new one,
Who have light, zeal, confidence, but not Christ.
Let us judge our Christianity, not only by our dependence upon Jesus,
But by our love to him, our conformity to him, our knowledge of him.
Give us a religion that is both real and progressive,
That holds on its way and grows stronger, that lives and works in the Spirit,
That profits by every correction, and is injured by no carnal indulgence.

The Valley of Vision, page 391

RESOURCES:

Precept Upon Precept: Sermon On The Mount, How Can I Be Blessed?, 2014
The Beatitudes: The Only Way to Happiness, by John MacArthur, 1998.
The Beatitudes: John MacArthur's Bible Studies by John F. MacArthur, Jr. 1990
Vines Expository Dictionary
The Five Solas: Standing Together, Alone by John Samson
The Valley of Vision

Homework

Next week we conclude our study of Matthew 5:1-12.

1. Read through Matthew chapters 5 to 7 for any Scriptures that apply to being a peacemaker. Record your thoughts.

2. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. What do you learn about reconciliation or peace?

3. Write out Matthew 5:1-12 again or recite from memory.