

## Being Peacemakers

Matthew 5.9

### Overview

#### **What does “Peace” and “Peacemaker”?**

- Peace: Absence of hostility and the presence of unity in the love of Christ
- Peacemaker: The loving action whereby one attempts to remove any hostility and promote unity in the love of Christ
  - This definition is distinctively Christian for two reasons:
    - Christ was speaking primarily to His disciples (Matt. 5.1-2)
    - Christ always speaks Christianly (He never removes His Christian identity)

#### **Gods Heart for Peace in Redemptive History:**

- God made the world “very good” (Genesis 1.31)
- Adam & Eve rebelled against the Lord, disobeying His good commands introducing chaos/hostility into the world (Genesis 3.6)
  - This is important because it tells us where peace has to reign before any other peace radiates
  - Peace is not primarily economic, social, political, medicinal, or educational
- God immediately put a plan into place to re-introduce Peace by sending His Son to crush the head of the serpent that helped bring in hostility (Genesis 3.15)
- Isaiah 9.6-7: The One that is coming will be a “Prince of Peace” and His government of peace will have no end
- Isaiah 53.5: We are brought peace by God placing our chastisement upon Him
- Ezekiel 37.24-28: He will introduce a “Covenant of Peace” (New Covenant)
- Micah 5.1-5: Bethlehem will produce a shepherd of the flock of God and He shall be great to the ends of the earth...He shall be their “peace”
- Luke 2.14: “Glory to God in the highest on earth peace among whom His favor rests.”
  - Jesus was/is the answer to all of God’s promises to bring Peace
- John 14.27: “Peace I leave you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give you”
- John 16.33: “I have said these things that in me you may have peace.”
- He accomplishes this peace by breaking down wall of hostility and reconciling us to God (Ephesians 2.14-16)
- Colossians 1.20: “Christ is making peace by the blood of the Cross”
- Romans 5.1: “Therefore since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
  - Christ not only removes the debt against us, but brings us into God’s presence as sons and daughters
- God is the “God of Peace” (Romans 15.33, 16.20, Phil. 4.9, 1 Thess. 5.23, Hebrews 13.20)
- God then commands us to be Peacemakers since He made peace with us (Psalm 34.14, Romans 14.19, 2 Corinthians 13.11, Ephesians 4.3, 2 Timothy 2.22, Hebrews 12.14, 1 Peter 3.11, 2 Peter 3.14)

#### **What does it look like to be a Peacemaker?**

- By not being a Peace Breaker:
  - Someone that typically thinks of themselves and their own devices before they think the good of the whole
  - They lack in what we read in the Beatitudes (Poor in Spirit, Mourning for sin, Meekness, Mercy)

- Praying for those who are attempting to be a peace breaker
- Being meek towards those that are introducing hostility
  - Not returning revile for revile
  - Outdoing them in showing them honor (Romans 12.10)
  - In so far as it depends upon you, live at peace with them (Romans 12.18)
- Invite correction/wisdom from fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and listen to them:
  - This demands that you be living meaningfully inside of Biblical community
- Crucify ourselves and consider others as better than ourselves
- Call those at hostility with God to Christ by sharing the Gospel (Romans 10.15, Ephesians 6.15)

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *Why do you think so much of the world instinctively yearns for peace? Why is it we like it so much?*

1. Read Matthew 5.3-12. Why does it appear Jesus mentions peacemaking just after those who have been made pure in heart?
2. What does “peace” mean? Why is it important to understand peace is not just the absence of “hostility” but also the presence of “unity”? What does it mean to be a peacemaker?
3. Why would Jesus connect peacemakers to being a son (or daughter) of God?
4. Read back over the places that discuss Gods Plan of Peace for the World.
5. Read back over the places that God is declared the “God of Peace.”
6. Read back over all the places where we are called to “strive” and “pursue” peace. It may be wise to read a part or a whole of our church’s covenant to reiterate these points.
7. Why do we struggle to be peacemakers even though we know the Great Peacemaker?
8. Have some others share where they have seen this in action.
9. What are some practical ways we can go about being peacemakers instead of being peace breakers?
10. Pray for the people in your group’s lives that need peace with God. Ask for courage to go and be peacemakers by sharing the Gospel.

**Accountability Question:** *Is there a situation you need to go back and make peace with given how your attitude or how you have behaved in the past? Where is the Lord calling you to live this out?*