

KINGDOM ATTRIBUTES

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

Nipun Ekanayake

God Blesses Those Who Work for Peace. They Will Be Called the Children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

Definition

Peacemakers in Greek *eirénē* (from *eirō*, "to join, tie together into a whole") – properly, *wholeness*, i.e. when all essential parts are joined together; *peace* (God's gift of *wholeness*).

Peace-making is a key characteristic of Jesus. Peace-making requires a change of your heart and continual effort for peace to flourish. We are called to be an instrument of Peace as Jesus Reconciled Man and God. it is our calling to reconcile man to God and peace with each other. By doing so we are continuing Jesus Work.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PEACE

The fact that this is the last of the Beatitudes suggests its importance. the fact that this is last telling us much about the heart of God. This is the most difficult of all the beatitudes.

At the route of peace starts with the heart which can be the source of conflict.

The beatitudes deal with the heart, not the lifestyle but the heart. Just remember the beatitude required Change of heart.

WHAT IS IT TO BE PEACEMAKERS?

You have to understand the world may never pick up the bible, however, your actions need to reflect and resonate the peace of Jesus causing other to seek we are called out we are the difference.

A peacemaker is a person who has peace and brings peace to others.

However, to be a peacemaker you must initially, yourself have peace.

What Peacemaking is not:

- Peacemaking It is not a natural disposition
- Peacemaking is not peace at any price.

You cannot make peace with sin or the devil or in a state of compromise.

WHO ARE TO BE PEACEMAKERS?

We are all called to be pacemakers.

Isaiah 9:6 - For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Throughout the Bible, we see that peace and peacemaking is a reward for obedience and is a fruit of the spirit.

WHY IS PEACEMAKING IMPORTANT?

Peacemaking is the fundamental of Christianity, Jesus laid down His life to make peace between God and Man, and when we can carry that message of peace to others, we in turn are peacemakers to each other and in turn to God.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18)

There is no real peace apart from a relationship with God. (Romans 5:1)

HOW DO WE BECOME PEACEMAKERS?

- A. Be prepared to give up your rights.
- B. Love before you are loved in return
- C. Move toward the trouble

WHAT DOES PEACEMAKING LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

1) **Recognize where there is a problem**

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? (James 4:1)

2) **Deal with conflict early**

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honourable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. (Romans 12:17:21)

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. (Matthew 18:15)

Choose not to be offended.

3) **Avoid harsh words, learn not to speak, Practice restraint, especially with your tongue**

Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. (Ephesians 4:29)

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. (James 1:19)

4) **Look to ways to make peace**

If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. (Romans 12:20)

5) **Aim at humility, not humiliation (promote the Glory of God in their life)**

If you reject discipline, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding. (Proverbs 15:32)

6) **Trust the injustice you have suffered to God**

This is a key passage for anyone who has been wronged and wants to be like Jesus. (1 Peter 2:19-25)

Jesus left everything Gods hands. Your vindication is with God! You can trust yourself to him who judges justly

7) **Prepare for a long journey be patient**

Search for peace and work to maintain it. (1 Peter 3:11)

8) **Be Teachable and don't come with Pride**

Instruct the wise, and they will be even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more. (Proverbs 9:9)

Pride leads to disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. (Proverbs 11:2)

WHEN IS PEACEMAKING APPLICABLE?

Peace is the ultimate solution and is a desired outcome for conflict. This could be within us or externally

God's peace can be defined as follows: God's peace means that in God's being and, in his actions, he is separate from all confusion and disorder, yet he is continually active in innumerable well- ordered, fully controlled, simultaneous actions.

Questions you need to answer?

- Think about your own life think about your own emotional, mental and spiritual state is it conducive for peace?
- Think about external factors such as work, school, family, neighbours your relationships in church does it exhibit Gods peace?
- What might you do to reflect God's peace more fully?

Sources

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, Published 1994; Thanks to the late Pastor Dick Iverson.