

## Blessed are the Peacemakers

*Matthew 5:9*

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**MAIN IDEA:** The Beatitudes describe all true Christians, meaning *every* believer in Jesus Christ displays *all* the qualities that Jesus states in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:3, 10). And every true Christian must put forth maximum effort to grow in these qualities, while understanding that God is ultimately responsible for inward change.

In Matthew 5:9, we consider several key truths about Jesus' teaching on being peacemakers.

### OUTLINE:

- I. The Meaning of Peace
  - A. What Jesus Does Not Mean
    - 1. All conflict is wrong.
    - 2. Self-defense is wrong.
    - 3. War is always wrong, and Christians must be pacifists.
    - 4. Blessed are those with a naturally peaceful disposition.
    - 5. Nations should seek to avoid war by appeasement.
    - 6. Blessed are those who don't like conflict and avoid it.
  - B. What Jesus Means—a healthy relationship
- II. The Need for Peace
  - A. By nature, every person is at war with God (Is. 42:13-14; Rom. 5:10; 8:7; 2 Th. 1:7-9).
  - B. By nature, every person is at war with others (Rom. 3:15-17; Gal. 5:19-21; Titus 3:3; Jam. 4:1-10).
- III. The Foundation of Peace
  - A. The Character of God
    - 1. The Father (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; Phil. 4:9; 1 Th. 5:23; Heb. 13:20)
    - 2. The Son (Is. 9:6)
    - 3. The Spirit (Gal. 5:22)
  - B. The Mission of the Son (Lk. 1:79; 2:14; Eph. 2:13-14)
  - C. The Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15; Col. 1:19-22)
- IV. The Practice of Peace
  - A. Pursue peace between sinners and God by praying for their salvation (1 Tim. 2:1-5) and by sharing the gospel (2 Cor. 5:17-21).
  - B. Pursue peace between ourselves and others (Ps. 34:14; Mt. 5:23ff; 18:15ff; Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14)
    - 1. If you sinned, go and seek to be reconciled (Mt. 5:23-24).
    - 2. If you've been sinned against, go and seek to be reconciled (Mt. 18:15-17).
    - 3. Pursue peace between others in conflict (Mt. 5:9)

V. The Blessing of Peace—"called sons of God"

***Conflict is only biblical if...***

1. The reason is biblical
  - a. Confronting sin (Mt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 5:20; Tit. 3:10)
  - b. Defending truth (Gal. 2:5, 11-14; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3; 4:7; Titus 1:9; Jude 3)
2. The motive is biblical (Gal. 2:5, 13a)
3. The attitude & communication are biblical (Eph. 4:29-32)

**BIBLICAL/THEOLOGICAL QUESTIONS**

1. Read Ephesians 2:11–22. Discuss how Paul connects “peace” with the gospel and with Jews/Gentiles.

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. How often do you pursue peace between sinners and God by praying for their salvation (1 Tim. 2:1-5) and by sharing the gospel (2 Cor. 5:17-21)? What keeps you from consistently engaging in these endeavors? Who in your life are you praying for salvation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Through the years of your sanctification, how have Christ, His Word, and the Spirit helped you better deal with conflict and seek reconciliation? Give examples and discuss.