

Blessed ~ The Peacemakers

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9

“What I want you to understand is this: Christians are peacemakers only because they have first found peace with God, the ultimate Peacemaker. And let me just say, friend, until you have peace with God, you will not consistently be able to make peace with others. So, the foundation of peace is the character of God, the mission of the Son, and then our believing in the Gospel, which produces peace between us and God, between us and others. Now, where that foundation exists, there can be the practice of peace. Blessed are the peacemakers.” *Pastor Tom Pennington*

***Praise Prayers ~** *Our Father, You are called the God of peace because this is Your perfect disposition. Jesus’ earnest prayer in the garden was for the children of God to be one with You. In this gracious and undeserved union, You grant us access to the mind of Christ and to the power to obey through the indwelling of Your Holy Spirit. What a glorious honor is bestowed on those who have peace with You and who labor to maintain and nourish peace with others, for they shall be called the sons of God.*

Christ our Lord lived in a hostile world with men who were prideful, argumentative, lovers of self, and even mockers. Without building up any resentment, Your Son showed us how to be an ambassador of reconciliation to all who are naturally peace-breakers. He was and still is patient and kind. He did not brag or act unbecomingly. Our blessed Lord had every reason to take into account the wrongs He suffered, but even while bearing Your wrath against sinners in His own body, He was still pouring out saving faith to a wretched, dying thief. Oh, to exhibit Your peaceable mindset while our character is tried and proven through the provoking that we receive. As we praise You for the golden ladder of the Beatitudes, lift our gaze and desires higher that we may rejoice in the blessed work and privilege of being peacemakers for Your glory and kingdom work.

***Colossians 1:19–20 ~** For it was the *Father’s* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

How can we respond to the mercy and peace You have lavished upon us? May we never take Your ruby red-blood, poured out as an offering on that cruel cross, as less than sufficient for our salvation. It is our peace.

***John 14:27 ~** “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.”

Your infinite wisdom knows what is best for each of Your children. The inheritance You willed to Your own before leaving this earth was peace—the gift through which we may lay down our strivings and discontentment.

***Ephesians 2:13–14 ~** But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one* and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall.

But now, there is no hostility between Christ and His redeemed, for peace follows Your cross. You are the Peacemaker who brought us near to love You, to delight in Your presence, and to follow wherever You lead.

***Psalm 103:8-11 ~** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. He will not always strive *with us*, nor will He keep *His anger* forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

Lord, we were once at war with You, but You did not keep Your anger toward us. Today we only know in part, but one day we will know the fullness of the breadth, length, height, and depth of what You have done for us.

***Matthew 5:45b–46 ~** “For He causes His sun to rise on *the evil and the good*, and sends rain on *the righteous and the unrighteous*. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?”

You restrain Your anger continually and extend Your peace to the evil and the good. Your kindness and benevolence are granted to all who have sinned against You and have provoked You, yet You bless them while giving them time to repent.

***Confessions** ~ *Forgiving Father, Your book of wisdom says in Romans 12:18, If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. We are made painfully aware that to be a peacemaker means that we must deny ourselves and love those who have a fallen nature. As believers, we say we would lay down our very lives for our Christ, but can we not also lay down our quarrels for Him that loved us to death? Would the members of our family recognize that we have been with Christ by the way we treat them? Do they observe the pains we take to die to our flesh and live in obedience to our blessed Jesus? Lord, who would You say is the master of our hearts—our pride or You? Is it not our own self-love, self-credit, self-lust, and self-honor that wage war against others? We need Your sustaining grace to turn away from nursing that grudge, or from brewing the simmering tempers that lie beneath our calm surface. It’s so habitual to replay an offense in the background of our minds when we are unforgiving. Remind us, Lord, that Your fountain of mercy will lick up the flames and put out the sparks of contention, for where there is no fuel, the fire goes out. **What could be worth a single hour of bitterness?** We ask Your forgiveness in silence, for You are a great and triumphant peacemaker. Help us, that we may seek peace, for Your sake. We now silently pause to examine our level of personal peacemaking.*

Then the LORD passed by in front of him (Moses) and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin.” Exodus 34:6–7a

***Thanksgiving** ~ *We are forgiven! This eternal promise will never change, and therefore, we will never be consumed. Thank You for the nail-pierced hands that have stayed Your wrath and brought us peace with You.*

***Intercession** ~ *Lord, bless these godly men with the passionate pursuit of pursuing peace with all men.*

Insert names here:

***Hebrews 12:14** ~ **Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.** ~ *Keep them from any action that will promote division, quarrels, or bitterness. With holiness as their pursuit, give them victory over their corrupt and defiling nature. Satisfy them with Your likeness and peace.*

***Hebrews 12:15** ~ **See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.** ~ *Grant our leaders discernment to judge all conflicts wisely and objectively. With self-restraint, keep them slow to anger and godly in their emotions as they weigh each offense in a just balance. As peacemakers, may they forgive the offense and the offender.*

***Matthew 18:15** ~ **“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”** ~ *Help them to bring peace between others in conflict. If they have been sinned against, may they reconcile in humility, without compromising Your truth. Grant them an eagerness to forgive.*

***Romans 12:18** ~ **If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.** ~ *Through their active participation with Your Holy Spirit, bless their marriages with peace. May conflicts in their homes be rare.*

***Proverbs 15:18** ~ **A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger calms a dispute.** ~ *Lord, be their strongest influence over all their conduct and character. Through their calming influence, may they extinguish every flaming temper with a blanket of wisdom that suffocates every hot ember of contention.*

***Congregation** ~ **Psalm 34:14** ~ **Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.** ~ *We cannot take our lusts and idols to heaven. Grant all our congregation to see Christ as better than anything this world has to offer. May we put away our selfish desires as we die to ourselves and choose to live for Christ as Lord over us.*

***PrayerSHOP Warriors** ~ *Free Your prayer warriors from any resentment as we strive for unity and peace.*

***Benediction** ~ **1 John 3:1** ~ **See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are.**

We ask great things in the great and glorious name of our blessed Peacemaker, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.