

## Blessed Are The Peacemakers

(Matthew 5:9)

peacemaker: One who makes or brings about peace; one who allays strife or reconciles opponents.

- A. There are times for war and peace. **ECC 3:8.**
  - 1. Believers are in an ongoing war with the world, the flesh and the devil. **ROM 12:2; 8:5-8; EPH 6:11.**
  - 2. We are to earnestly contend for the faith, for the truth. **JUDE 1:3; GAL 2:5, 14.**
  - 3. Yet while shunning evil and warring against it, we are to "...follow after the things which make for peace..." (**ROM 14:19**), and thus be assured of the blessing of **MAT 5:9.**
  - 4. The Adamic nature is contrary to the way of peace. **ROM 3:17.**
- B. Observations.
  - 1. There is a false peace that comes by compromising godly principle.
  - 2. Some of the things which make for peace may require us to sacrifice our personal peace.
  - 3. One who is not at peace with God because of sin will struggle to be at peace with others, especially if another's goodness condemns him. Remember King Saul.
- C. Brethren are especially to "...have peace one with another" (**MAR 9:50**). c/w **1TH 5:13.**
  - 1. Hatred frustrates this. **PRO 10:12.**
  - 2. Wrath frustrates this. **PRO 15:18.**
  - 3. Pride frustrates this. **PRO 28:25.**
  - 4. Lack of forbearance and forgiveness frustrates this. **PRO 19:11; COL 3:12-13; 1CO 6:7.**
  - 5. Fretting and discontentment frustrates this. **COL 3:14-15 c/w PHIL 4:6-7.**
  - 6. What kind of testimony to the world is a church of internal strife? **JAM 4:1-2.**
  - 7. Internal strife must be handled properly. **MAT 18:15-17; PRO 25:9-10.**
  - 8. If brethren must strive, let it be positive strife. **ROM 15:30; PHIL 1:27; HEB 12:4.**
- D. When possible, we are also to "...live peaceably with all men" (**ROM 12:18**).
  - 1. This command shows that pacific ideals may sometimes be impossible.
  - 2. Sin can make men implacable (That cannot be appeased; irreconcilable; inexorable: of persons, feelings, etc). **ROM 1:31; PSA 120:6-7.**
  - 3. Separation may be necessary. **GEN 13:7-9; PRO 21:9.**
  - 4. Let peace be the default position as much as possible because once strife starts, it's hard to stop. **PRO 17:14.**
  - 5. Hasty strife can bring humbling shame. **PRO 25:8.**
  - 6. How we react to offense can be the difference between war and peace. **PRO 15:1, 18.**
- E. We may have opportunity or need to help others at strife to come to peace. **LUK 22:24-27.**
  - 1. Such help is not always well received. **ACT 7:26-27.**
  - 2. Avoid meddling in others' strifes. **PRO 26:17.**
    - a. Life will provide you plenty of opportunity for strife without meddling in others'.
    - b. Work quietly and mind your own business. **2TH 3:12; 1TH 4:11.**
    - c. Sometimes folks simply need a little time and space to work out their differences on their own terms.
  - 3. Beware of manufactured strifes that divide people otherwise at peace. **PRO 6:12-19.**
- F. True peace is a fruit of righteousness. **ISA 32:17; JAM 3:17-18.**

1. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. **PSA 85:10.**
  2. There is no peace to the wicked. **ISA 57:19-21.**
  3. It is a false peace that is purchased at the expense of righteousness, and often short-lived. **JDG 14:15-17; 15:6; JOH 11:48-53.**
  4. It is a false peace and safety which the world longs for and gives that Christ will suddenly destroy in His day. **JOH 14:27 c/w 1TH 5:2-3.**
  5. Our Lord's priesthood is *King of righteousness* before *King of peace*. **HEB 6:20-7:2.**
- G. Christ is the great Peacemaker, the Prince of Peace. **ISA 9:6.**
1. His Testament reconciled believing Jew and Gentile. **EPH 2:14-15.**
  2. He paid a dear price to reconcile us to God. **ISA 53:5; COL 1:20.**
  3. Those who preach this accomplished reconciliation preach the *gospel of peace*. **2CO 5:18; ROM 10:15.**
    - a. They preach the proper response of practical reconciliation, that the children of peace stop fighting against the God of peace. **2CO 5:20.**
    - b. The obedient therefore can avoid chastening in order to find the peaceable fruit of righteousness. **HEB 12:5-11.**
  4. True peace with God and men flows from Christ.
    - a. Through Him, we are no longer God's enemies. **ROM 5:10.**
    - b. Through Him, we learn how to live in true peace with brethren and men in general, where possible, without compromising righteousness. **ROM 12:18.**
    - c. Through Him, we can show others a better way of peace than this world offers: one which is attended by the *God of peace*. **PHIL 4:8-9.**
- H. **(MAT 5:9)** Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.