

The Blessing of Being Peacemakers

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

The Meaning of Peace:

The Old Testament Hebrew word is “Shalom” — שָׁלוֹם

It means peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare and tranquility and can be used idiomatically to mean both hello and goodbye.

- It is a positive word, not a neutral word like “the absence of war”
- It means the presence of God’s good.
- It is an active word, not just doing nothing.

The New Testament Greek word is “Eirānā” — εἰρήνη.

- It also has the idea of God’s activity on earth to bring about good.

Key Thoughts On the Meaning of Peace:

1. Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
2. Peace is a gift from God (John 14:27)
3. Peace is available first through Jesus (Romans 5:1)
4. God’s peace is not for everyone (Luke 2:14)
5. Peace is a by-product of a rightly focused mind and heart (Isaiah 26:3)

Being Peacemakers:

Jesus didn’t say “Blessed are the peace-lovers” or “Blessed are the peaceful.” He said, “Blessed are the peace-*makers*.”

1. Not “peace-lovers”. Avoiding conflict can make things worse.

2. Peace is not always possible. (Romans 12:18)

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

3. Being a peacemaker begins with me. (James 4:1)

“What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don’t they come from the evil desires at war within you?” - James 4:1

4. Being a peacemaker is a calling for all Christ followers. (Rom. 14:19)

“Let us make every effort to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.”

Being Children of God: (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

The Doctrine of Reconciliation: There’s a war between sinful humans and a holy God. Jesus came to reconcile us to God.

We are called to be Jesus’ ambassadors.

“So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” - 2 Corinthians 5:20

Application Project:

1. State the meaning of this Beatitude in your own words:

To me, being a peacemaker means...

2. What is there in my present lifestyle that helps me or hinders me from being God’s peacemaker?

Helps

Hinders

3. What robs me of a sense of God’s peace?

4. The person with whom I sense the greatest conflict is...

The situation in my life where I feel the most conflict is...

5. Some steps I can make to be God’s peacemaker:

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