

Matthew 5:9

**What a happy estate have all those who are peacemakers,
For it is they who shall be called sons of God.**

Introduction

I. Blessed are the peacemakers

A. Old Testament Background

1. _____ is one of the defining characteristics of the everlasting kingdom of the Messiah.
 - a. Isaiah 60:17-18 – I will make your overseers peace and your taskmasters righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in your land, devastation or destruction within your borders.
 - b. Isaiah 9:6-7 – For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
 - c. Zechariah 9:10 – I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.
 - d. Hosea 2:18 – And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety.
 - e. Micah 4:3-4 – [The LORD] shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.
2. One of the most immediate and visible results of the first sin was _____.

 - a. Cain and Abel – “When they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.” (Genesis 4:8)

- b. Lamech – “I have killed a man for wounding me, and a young man for striking me. If Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy-sevenfold.” (Genesis 4:23-24)
 - c. “Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight, and the earth was filled with violence.” (Genesis 6:11)
 - d. Isaiah 59:3-8 – For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. They hatch adders’ eggs; they weave the spider’s web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched. Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.
3. The perfect and universal peace of the Messianic kingdom is simply the result of living in a world where only _____ dwells.
- a. 2 Peter 3:13 – According to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
 - b. James 3:18 – And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.
 - c. Hebrews 12:11 – For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
 - d. Psalms 72:7 – In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
 - e. Psalms 37:37-38 – Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace. But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.
4. Summary – Those who hunger and thirst for *righteousness* are those who seek for the _____ messianic peace even in the _____ age.

B. Peacemaking

1. We *work* for peace by proclaiming the _____ of peace.
 - a. Ephesians 6:15 – and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.
 - b. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 – All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- c. Ephesians 2:14-18 – For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
2. We work for peace by living peaceably.
- a. Ephesians 4:1-3 – I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all *humility* and *gentleness*, with *patience*, *bearing with one another in love*, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
 - b. Proverbs 26:21 – As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife.
 - c. Proverbs 17:14 – The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.
 - d. Proverbs 15:1 – A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
 - e. Proverbs 16:28 – A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.
 - f. Proverbs 15:18 – A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.
 - g. Proverbs 29:22 – A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression.
 - h. James 1:20 – The anger of man does not produce the righteousness that God requires.
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- i. Ephesians 4:31-32 – Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.
 - j. Matthew 5:23-24 – So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
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- k. A true peacemaker requires every inner virtue of the heart and every outward manifestation of love.

3. The peacemaker does not pursue peace _____.
- a. Romans 12:18 – If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- b. Matthew 10:34-36 – Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.
- c. Ephesians 4:15 – Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

II. For they shall be called sons of God.

- A. "Sons of God" has to do with _____.
1. Matthew 8:12 – Sons (versus children) of the kingdom (Jews).
2. Matthew 9:15 – Sons (versus children) of the wedding hall (invited guests).
3. Matthew 13:38 – Sons (versus children) of the kingdom (the redeemed).
4. Matthew 13:38 – Sons (versus children) of the evil one (the reprobate).
5. Matthew 23:31 – Sons (versus children) of those who murdered the prophets.
- B. If it is the peacemakers who will be called sons of God, then it must be true that God is the ultimate _____.
1. It is the peacemakers who reflect most fully the _____ character of God.
2. In beatitudes 5-7, Jesus tells us that true kingdom righteousness is developed and manifested only as we live in _____ with others.
3. Scriptures
 - a. Proverbs 6:12, 14 – A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech... continually sowing discord.
 - b. Proverbs 6:16, 19 – There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him... a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.
 - c. Zechariah 8:16, 19 – These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another; render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace... therefore love truth and peace.
 - d. Psalms 34:12-14 – What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.
 - e. Romans 14:19 – So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.
 - f. Hebrews 12:14 – Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.