

**INTRODUCTION**

1. Strategy for victory - gospel love [GL] & peace making.
2. Lk 6:27 & 35. life of sonship: worship & witness
  - i. Worship: Jesus in midst of His Church [lampstands Rv 1]
  - ii. Worshipers are witnesses in the world.
  - iii. Jn 20:21 - Our mission is to replicate Jesus' mission.
3. Sons of Most High - Sons of God - Mat 5:9-12 *peacemakers* - Ps 120:6-7
4. Gn 3:15. 2 seeds at *enmity*. Rm 16:20 - *peace* = victory in war.
5. Sons do deeds of Father in obedience to THE Son - Jesus

**1st: Peacemakers Enjoy a Unique Relationship to God**

1. God *calls* the peacemaker His *son*: an effectual calling - transforms
  - i. Mat 5:11 name calling [A 11:26].
  - ii. 1 Jn 3:1-2 Father's children who *overcome the world* [5:4-5].
2. Privileges of sonship. Jn 1:12-13 Being loved by Father overcomes fear of being hated by world [Jn 17:26].
3. Rm 8:14-17 - *led by HS - spirit of adoption*: worship, prayer, obedience through suffering unto victory of resurrection

**2nd: Peacemakers Bear a Distinct Resemblance to God**

1. *God of peace* - Rm 15:33; 16:20; 2Cor 13:11
2. Imitate Father - Mt 5:43-48 love enemies: *be perfect* - complete, mature
  - i. Lk 6:35-36 *just as* = the principle of imitation
  - ii. Eph 4:32-5:2 *just as* (v32); *be imitators of God as children*.
  - iii. 1 Pt 1:14-17 sonship is demonstrated in *conformity*
3. Summons to be like God: motivated by love, imitate His deeds & words

**Applic #1: We Were Created and Are Saved to be Sons of God**

1. In Adam & now in Christ - made to be like God & to live w/ God
2. Adam: Lk 3:38 *likeness & image* = relationship of sonship.
3. 2 seeds [sons] - Satan: we are "sons" of the one we hear & obey [Jn 8:44]. Again the principle of imitation is definitive.
4. Christ: *This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!* [Lk 9:35]
5. Christian: Rv 21:7 - Mat 5:48 fulfilled
6. In creation, redemption & eschatology - we are sons of God.

**Applic #2: We Come Before Our Father and Live Among Men as Sons of God**

1. 2 tasks of church in Rev: worship & witness - as sons of God.
2. *Our Father who art in heaven...* [Mat 6:9].
3. Extend His peace - Eph 6:10-18. Battlefield of worship, family, society.
4. Worship & Witness. The battle is fought & won on these 2 fronts.

**Applic #3: Peacemaking Sons of God Will Live in a World of Peace w/ the Prince of Peace**

1. Revelation gives us glimpses of our present & future glory. Live now according to our identity & destiny - reconciliation: Col 1:20 - v15-20
2. Gods overarching purpose: His eternal Sabbath Rest.
  - i. In Adam all fall short of His glory [Rm 3:23];
  - ii. But in Jesus we are given the peace of God's Sabbath blessing. Jn 14:27; 2Th 3:16; 1Jn 1:3; Rm 15:33