

Peace At All Costs

Mt 5:8 Blessed are the Peacemakers

“Peacemakers” a word written nowhere else in Scripture.

The Beatitudes put a supreme value on **reconciliation, forgiveness, unity**. There is no part of Christ or His mission that calls for dividing God’s people into opposing liturgical or doctrinal camps.

John 17:23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

1 Corinthians 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no **divisions** among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Galatians 5:20 [NIV] hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions [works of the flesh: carnality]

Peacemakers are called “sons of God” because, as scholarship explains: “**they are like Him.**” - Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

Peace making is **not** used here as a euphemism for personal **evangelism**—that would be a ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:19 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

One New Humanity Out Of The Many

Ephesians 2:14-15 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

“The reference,” says scholarship, “is to those who disinterestedly come between two contending parties and try to make peace.”

So far: if I am interpreting what Matthew recalls about Jesus’ sermon on the mount:

1. **Poor in spirit:** True happiness begins when a believer realizes how *bankrupt* they are without God. They realize that this life is a passage way to the next and all things have a spiritual significance. Living now in the light of eternity.
2. **Those who mourn:** They have taken to heart God’s concerns and burdens realizing that carrying these is true communion with Him.
3. **The meek:** They find themselves more and more desirous of giving God His way in their lives.
4. **Who hunger and thirst to be righteous:** They are passionate about living and experiencing God’s Word in Christian community.
5. **Who are merciful:** They have a servant's heart, they are givers, responding spontaneously to need: physical as well as spiritual.
6. **Who are pure in heart:** What they do for others, they do for the Lord without hidden personal interests.
7. **Who are peacemakers:** Ultimately a Christ-centric unity is their most powerful message of the reality of Salvation.

Peace becomes an indelible principle printed on each heart, where reconciliation with each other when necessary is prioritized over every other concern, where revival means true repentance and unity is diamond hard and uncrackable by all the demons of hell. Peacemakers know with clarity of conviction how Satan devises wedges of doctrine and ritual between believers and our love for unity is far too strong for him.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes [his plans, designs, thought out purposes].

No weapon forged against you will prevail

Peacemakers cannot be coerced or lead or deceived or driven or made in any other way to go to war against another in Christ. **Isaiah 54:17** no weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the LORD.

No weapon formed, means no weapon: **no word, no dogma, no denominational position, no disagreement, no argument, no belligerence** will be sufficient to even suggest disunity. Our hearts ... chained together by the strongest, unbreakable, bond of christian love. And Jesus’ prayer is answered: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” [**John 17:21**].

Happiness == Peacemaking

English doesn’t have a word for this feeling, translators have struggled to find one. What do you call it when you feel happy, **content, balanced, harmonious?**

We often interpret this verse to mean, “If you are a peacemaker, then God will bless you.” But this isn’t what Jesus meant. Jesus meant, “If you are a peacemaker, then you are in your happy place.” It just doesn’t work well in English. Alas, here is the bigger problem: maybe the reason we struggle to find “happy” in our personal lives is because we don’t have a word in our native language to denote it. —**Richards, E. Randolph; O’Brien, Brandon J.** Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes

When I looked through the hospital nursery window at my newborn son (3 times) I was purely happy. When I walked into a church that had just accepted me as pastor, I was purely happy—I felt “home.”

How NOT to be Happy

To the degree we are self-dependent, self-reliant, not needing God, we are not likely to have a prayer life; sorrow has no Divine solution. A lack of interest in God's intervention is typical of a self-intervention, a maverick approach to solving problems, a self-promoting enterprise in the place of Divine wisdom. This is hubris that affects all relationships. We are insensitive to the needs of others and tend toward greedily seeking our own interests. A community of this kind of people is fractured because there is no common bond. Our unity is based on a singular truth: Christ crucified. So, Satan is not likely to persecute us since he favors not the things that be of God but of man [Mark 8:33] and we have accommodated him. Happiness now is a fleeting self aggrandizement or as Paul wrote: [2 timothy 3:4] “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.”

What will heaven be like?

Luke 12:32 “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom”

Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,”

But the Bible is full of hints that are exciting to know:

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. Peacemakers are called “sons of God” because “they are like Him.”

Matthew 5:3 God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

The Story of the King

Imagine a kingdom ruled by a benevolent king who has chosen to treat all his subjects equally [**Galatians 3:28**]¹ as family and friend [**Romans 8:23**]² rather than servants [**John 15:15**].³ They are all members of His household [**Ephesians 2:19**].⁴

They are servants because they serve one another as they serve the King. This service is real and not mechanical. There is no rule, no law, that decides who does what [**Galatians 5:22-23**].⁵ They simply care for one another and respond to that concern without reservation or fear of rejection. Furthermore, their needs are met by the abundant generosity of the king [**Romans 8:32**].⁶ There is no money and no market. None is needed.

There is no division among them. There is no class or race distinctions, even though they retain their uniqueness. Each may tell all of heaven, “This is me. I am here!” But they will all be holy, purely holy [**1 John 3:2**].⁷

1 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

2 we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption

3 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

4 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

5 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

6 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

7 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

They serve their king with great happiness. They know His will and desires. His kingdom has no word for selfishness, no word for pride. In fact, because of this special relationship between Him and them—and for that matter, among all of them—there is no deception, no trickery, no lies, no arguing or fighting or cursing [**Zephaniah 3:13**].⁸ It is such a relationship that an entirely new vocabulary is required to describe it [**2 Corinthians 12:4**].⁹

The kingdom is built on the Beatitudes: a humble dependence solely on the king [**Matthew 5:3**].¹⁰ No one, as a result, is possessive of things they are privileged to enjoy. In fact the concept of ownership is a strange one since no own claims anything as their own [**Acts 4:32**].¹¹ There is no greed, no want at all [**Psalms 23:1**].¹² Each member of His kingdom has a sharing heart.

Is there any sadness or sorrow here? Not in terms of pain or hurt, no tears [**Revelation 21:4**]¹³ —but there is caring [**Matthew 5:4**].¹⁴ The servants in His kingdom continue to care about one another. There is no abusive talk or bullying or ridiculing or belittling. There is no fighting. There is no need to develop discipline or teach duty or responsible behavior [**Isaiah 35:8**].¹⁵

Persons who care, who serve willingly, are a gentle people [**Matthew 5:5**].¹⁶ Each servant desires to please their king and that means pleasing each other. They are always hungry to serve one another more [**Matthew 5:6**].¹⁷

8 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.

9 unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

10 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

12 The Lord is my Shepherd; I will not be in need.

13 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

14 Blessed *are* those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

15 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

16 Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

17 Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

They are a merciful people [**Matthew 5:7**],¹⁸ a people in community who seek the comfort of others over themselves. They are pure of heart [**Matthew 5:8**].¹⁹ They have no self-interest, no deception, no ulterior or personal motive in all they do for one another. Their heart, their love, is pure. It is not alloyed with any kind of greed.

This kingdom is a kingdom at peace [**Matthew 5:9**].²⁰ In fact every member of the kingdom (not some) are called peacemakers, not in the sense of policing, (there are no courts, no divorce, no war) but of living in peace [**Micah 4:4**].²¹

And joy! Oh, such an untouchable, unchangeable, undying joy! [**Matthew 5:12**]²² Their joy and happiness cannot be described in words we now know. It is, as the apostle once said, unspeakable and full of glory [**1 Peter 1:8**].²³ Perhaps this joy is the fuel that ignites their passion and love.

18 Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

19 Blessed *are* the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

20 Blessed *are* the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

21 they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*.

22 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad

23 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: