



Mid-Week

**Bible Study and Prayer
Wednesdays 6:45pm – 8pm**



Good Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Josh Franklin

The Beautiful Attitudes pt. 7- *From Trouble-makers to Peace-makers*

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

Jesus did not say Blessed are the peace lovers, the peace talkers, the peace prayers, peace planners or the pacifist. But blessed are they who are pro-active in making peace where there is conflict.

I. What is Peace?

The Hebrew word for peace is beautiful – “Shalom”. This word is expressed in the word, “Jerusalem” – city of peace. Hebrews greet each other with “*Mah Shalom Kah*” which means “Is it peace with you?” This word means much more than the absence of war or conflict. When two Jews meet each other or part from each other, they say, “Shalom! Peace!” but they mean much more than, “May you have no battles!” The biblical meaning of peace is to experience total well-being in every aspect of one’s life – spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically.^a

II. What are the fundamental facts about Biblical Peace?^b

1. **God is the source of all peace.** In the Old Testament, God is called “Jehovah Shalom” meaning Jehovah is peace (Judges 6:24). Jesus is called the Prince of Peace in Isaiah 9:6. God is called the God of peace six times in the New Testament. The angels proclaimed peace on earth at the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:14.
2. **Jesus is God’s peacemaker through the blood of the Cross** (Colossians 1:20).
 - Natural man is at war on three fronts: a) With God; b) with himself; c) with others.
 - Jesus in His death has restored man’s relationship with himself, with God and with others. See Col. 1:20; Rom. 5:1; John 14:27; John 16:33.
3. **The Holy Spirit is the Producer of peace in the believer’s life** (Galatians 5:22).
4. **The enemy of peace is sin.** Until Adam sinned, he was at perfect peace with God. After he sinned he hid from God (Genesis 3:8), showing that sin had broken that beautiful relationship. But Jesus paid for the penalty of sin and broke its power on the Cross so that when one is forgiven of his sins, his relationship with God and with himself is restored (Romans 5:1).
5. **Christians are the instruments of God’s peace.** **“Blessed are the peacemakers or those who are instruments of God in bringing peace to others.”** A person must first make peace with God Himself through repentance and faith. Only then, can that person enjoy peace with other individuals. **In Scotland, you hear the phrase “first stepper”. A “first stepper” is the first in wishing his friends or neighbor a Happy New Year.** Spiritually

^a Bill Bennett Mentoring School handout.

^b Ibid.

speaking, a “first stepper” is the Christian who takes the initiative in making peace between individuals, groups, etc. A Christian is called to make peace with six groups:

1. Between himself and another person – Matthew 5:23-24
2. Between two other people.
3. Between groups such as black and white, young and old.
4. Between factions in the church – Ephesians 4:3; Psalm 133:1
5. Between nations
6. The supreme work of the peacemaker is to be an instrument of God in making peace between the lost and God. This is soul winning. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 that Christians are a new creation in Christ and that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

III. How to Become a Peacemaker? [ACROSTIC P-E-A-C-E] ^c

PLAN a Peace conference. **Matthew 5:23-24** - Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”^d

EMPATHIZE with their feelings. **Philippians 2:4** - Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

ATTACK the problem not the person. **Proverbs 15:1** - A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. **Ephesians 4:29** - Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.^e

COOPERATE as much as possible. **Romans 12:18** -If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.^f **James 3:17** – “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.^g Go to them first. Matthew 5 and Mark 11 – one of them says when somebody offends you, go to them, the other says when you offend them you go to them. Either way you take the initiative. If you want to be a peacemaker that’s what it means to be like God.

EMPHASIZE reconciliation not resolution. **2 Corinthians 5:18** - Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.” **Colossians 3:15** - And let the peace of God rule in your hearts...”

Reconcile means to reestablish a relationship. It does not mean you resolve all the problems. You can disagree, agreeably. You can walk arm in arm together without seeing eye to eye. You can have reconciliation without having resolution of every problem.

Reconciliation focuses on the relationship. Resolution focuses on the issue, the problem. When you focus on reconciling the relationship FIRST, the results are either:

- (A) The issue starts to resolve itself out.
- (B) The issue becomes immaterial.
- (C) At least now you’ve got two people working in the same direction to resolve it.

IV. What is the Reward of a Peacemaker? Jesus says that peacemakers will be called or recognized as the sons of God. The expression “Son of,” in Hebrew means the character or essence of someone. So a peacemaker is one who is Godlike. Example, when you call someone “son of a gun”, you are saying he’s a “pistol” like his parents. When you say someone is a son of God, he has the character and will do the work of God. People also look upon them with great favor because of their valuable service to humanity.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF PEACEMAKER: ABIGAIL (1 Samuel 25: 3-35) (See Also: Eph. 4:3; Rom. 14:19; Rom. 12:18)

St. Francis prayed, “Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hate, may I bring love; Where offense, may I bring pardon; May I bring union in place of discord.”

^c Rick Warren “Finding Your Missing Peace” sermon, www.saddlebackresources.com

^d Good News Bible reads, “go at once to make peace...”

^e GNB reads, “Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up...”

^f GNB reads, “Do everything possible on your part, to live at peace with all men.”

^g The Living Bible reads, “...Peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness.”

EXTRA MATERIAL FOR TEACHING

God's Word enjoins such peacemaking, telling us to

"make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" ([Ephesians 4:3](#)).

"make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification" ([Romans 14:19](#)).

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" ([Romans 12:18](#)).

Dorothy Patterson says, "The word "peacemaker" (Greek *eirenopoioi*) appears in the Greek text as a predicate adjective; that is it follows the verb and modifies the subject of the verb. In the New Testament this derivation of the word is used only in the seventh Beatitude, which gives it a unique emphasis. Here the word should be understood in an active and literal sense to identify **one who does indeed make peace and seek reconciliation rather than being understood in the passive sense as describing one who simply endures conflict by merely holding the peace.**"

MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT PEACEMAKING^h:

It's not AVOIDING – It's not running from the problem. It's not pretending it doesn't exist. "I don't want to talk about it" is not peacemaking, it's cowardice. None of us like conflict so we avoid it, postpone it, put it off but it only gets bigger.

It's not APPEASEMENT – When you always give in and let the other person have their own way. You let people run over you. That's passivity. Jesus was a very controversial person. He stood his ground on a number of issues. Once in a while I read a marriage books that says you ought to be a doormat and always let the other partner have their own way and always give in – for the sake of peace be a doormat. Jesus never said that. Jesus never said you ever had to give up your identity or be a chameleon.

It's not appeasement and it's not avoiding. **It's actively seeking to resolve the conflict.**

Dr. Adrian Rogers said, "Peace, my friend, is not appeasement. Don't get the idea if you're a peacemaker that you are an appeaser. Appeasement never brings peace. **And don't think that you're honor bound to get along with everybody. There is something wrong, something desperately wrong with the person who can get along with everybody.** You just can't do it. Now, you can try. The Bible says, if it be possible, as much as lies within you, be at peaceably with all men. **Which means that it's not always possible.** As a matter of fact you're going to be known by the enemies you make.

"Dr. Robert G. Lee, the former pastor of this church, was a great man. But he had his enemies. And, he had people who didn't love him. Every man of God has those who don't love him. I've heard Dr. Lee say on more than one occasion, he said, one of these days somebody is going to preach my funeral. Well literally, I preached his funeral, but I didn't know that I would years ago. But he said, one of these days, somebody is going to preach my funeral, and he said, when I'm in that coffin, when I'm in that casket, if that preacher has the nerve, the audacity to say, **"Here lies dear old Dr. Lee, he didn't have an enemy."** He said, I pray God He'll give me the courage to kick the lid off that coffin, rise up and say that's a lie. He didn't want to be known as a man who did not have an enemy. All of us who stand for God will have enemies.

"I remember reading about some preacher boy who was in a class in a liberal college, and the professor was telling us, "Oh we ought never to have any enemies, we ought never to be controversial, there ought never to be any problems, and so forth, and what he was giving was the gospel of appeasement. And then he said, "What we need to do is to follow the example of Jesus." And that young preacher boy lifted his hand, he said, **"Professor, if Jesus Christ were so beautifully tactful, and diplomatic, how did He manage to get Himself crucified."**

Why Should I be a peacemaker?

1. Unresolved conflict blocks my fellowship with God. [1 John 4:20-21, 1:3-4](#)
2. It prevents answered prayers. [1 Peter 3:7](#)

^h Rick Warren "Finding Your Missing Peace" sermon, www.saddlebackresources.com

3. It hinders my happiness. **“You are only hurting yourself with your anger.” Job 18:4 (LB)**

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF PEACEMAKER: ABIGAIL (1 Samuel 25: 3-35)

Abigail is one of my favorite Bible women. She was married to a man described as a wealthy “scoundrel” or “fool”. Her marriage to Nabal may have been arranged by her family. One of this obnoxious man’s biggest mistakes was to insult David, the future king of Israel. David immediately sought vengeance upon Nabal and his household. Abigail learned of the incident through a servant, and she immediately assumed her role as peacemaker. This beautiful and wise wife respectfully and quietly dissuaded the impetuous David from attacking her husband and his household. She was not disrespectful of her foolish husband, but she did show tact and humble graciousness toward David. Her peacemaking saved lives and prevented David from shedding innocent blood. David said to Abigail, “Go up in peace to your house... I have... respected your person.” He recognized that this “peacemaker” changed the direction of his life.”ⁱ

Dorothy Patterson said, “Obviously you cannot be a peacemaker if you are not at peace with God, and you can find peace with God only through Jesus Christ. Once at peace with the Creator God, you are ready to go into the world as His channel for establishing this peace in the hearts of others.

Are you a Peacemaker? If you have peace, that means you have peace with God, with yourself and with others. If you don’t have peace in these three realms, you are waging a warfare on three fronts, with God, with yourself and with others. Would you be a peacemaker?

Abraham Lincoln used to say, “I would like it to be said that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow.”

ⁱ Dorothy Patterson, BeAttitudes for Women, pg. 207