

Be a PEACEMAKER



- ❖ Matthew 5:9
- ❖ Genesis 32 & 33



Be a PEACEMAKER



- ❖ Blessed: “**Makarios**” - the state of one who has become a partaker of God; ; to experience the fullness of God.
- ❖ Makarios refers to the believer in Christ who is satisfied & secure in the midst of life's hardships **BECAUSE** of the indwelling fullness of the spirit.
- ❖ The blessing of God is to experience all of the fullness of the indwelling Spirit of God **WHILE** living through the hardships of life.



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- ❖ (2 Peter 1:3-4) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life & godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory & virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great & precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (NKJV)



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- ❖ (Philippians 4:11-13) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, & I know how to abound. Everywhere & in ALL things I have learned both to be full & to be hungry, both to abound & to suffer need. I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me. (NKJV)



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- ❖ (1 Timothy 6:6) Now godliness w/ contentment is great gain. (NKJV)



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- ❖ Greek word for peacemaker is: ειρηνοποιός/eirinopoios
- ❖ Eirene is used 92x (New Testament) - it refers to the state of untroubled, undisturbed tranquility despite the circumstances in which we find ourselves; to bind, weave together, the ability to hold it together no matter the state of things around us. Basically, a person who is calm, untroubled, & at rest in his soul regardless of what else is going on outside of him.

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- ❖ The word "make" in the term "peacemakers" come from the Greek verb **poieo** which means "to do" or make"
- ❖ It's a word bursting w/ energy; it mandates action & initiative, up & doing
- ❖ Thus, when these (2) words "peace" & "maker" are taken together it describes one who actively pursues peace
- ❖ Pursuing all the beauty & blessedness of God upon another
- ❖ It's the calling of God's children so you can be called sons of God



A Peacemaker seeks peace because of the peace they've been given (Christ our Peace)



(Ephesians 2:14-19) For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, & has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, & that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers & foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God. (NKJV)

Peacemaking is part of the Christian's witness to the world



- ❖ (Psalm 34:14) - Depart from evil & do good; Seek peace & pursue it
- ❖ (Romans 14:19) - Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another
- ❖ (Hebrews 12:14) - Pursue peace with ALL people, & holiness, without which no one will see the Lord



The word that strongly describes peacemaking Christians engage in:



- ❖ Reconciliation: turning hostility into friendship. In Greek the word is "Katallasso" which means restoration to divine favor by bringing about a change in man (conversion); the divine exchange, so to change thoroughly or alter completely.
- ❖ Ministry of Reconciliation - we are all called to; actively seeking to reconcile people to God 1st & then one another



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(2 Corinthians 5:18-20) - Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. (NKJV)



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- ❖ (Romans 5:6-11) - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (NKJV)



Peacemaking exhibited

- ❖ (Genesis 32:1-5) - So Jacob went on his way, & the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim." Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now. I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight." ' " (NKJV)



(5) Practical steps of peacemaking:

1. **Use a 3rd party as needed. (Genesis 32:3-4)**
 - ❖ Jacob sent a mediator to Esau to announce his intent to reconcile.
 - ❖ Most conflicts we can handle 1:1 like in Matthew 18.
 - ❖ Sometimes, you need a 3rd party, a spiritually mature & impartial person to observe & assist w/ the communication & objectivity.





(5) Practical steps of peacemaking:

2. Saturate/marinate the conflict in prayer (Genesis 32:9-13)

- ❖ We can't make peace in our own strength; we need God's help & wisdom.
- ❖ Peacemaking apart from God will never work. (U.N.)
- ❖ Talking to God about the person(s)/conflict is prayer





(5) Practical steps of peacemaking:

3. Be hospitable. (Genesis 32:13-23)

- ❖ A statement of hospitality/generosity
- ❖ Your attitude/intent is to be a blessing & to give & make amends
- ❖ An authentic gift & not a bribe





(5) Practical steps of peacemaking:

4. HUMILITY (Genesis 32:24-32)

- ❖ Be humble - pride is the enemy of peace
- ❖ You forgive because you have been forgiven
- ❖ You love because you have been loved by God
- ❖ You clear the path because the path has been cleared for you
- ❖ Be humble or you'll stumble - Pride comes before destruction





(5) Practical steps of peacemaking:

5. Vulnerability/Authenticity (Genesis 33:1-4)

- ❖ Real healing takes place when authenticity/vulnerability are part of the equation
- ❖ Reconciliation (Katallasso) between Jacob & Esau





Peacemaking Presented

- ❖ Matthew 5:9 - Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God
- ❖ You will be called a child of God when you make peace (eirinoipoios)
- ❖ Peacemaker = shows a family resemblance to God





Characteristics of Peacemakers

- ❖ Seek solutions, not arguments
- ❖ Calm the waters, not stir them up
- ❖ Work for reconciliation not division (Galatians 5:19-21)
- ❖ Keep their voices steady instead of raising them
- ❖ Generate more light than heat (Galatians 5:22-26)
- ❖ Peace begins at the cross - the ultimate bridge of peace

