

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

A Reconciling Spirit

Matthew 5:9

¹ “A Reconciling Spirit” is the title of our message today. ² We get it from the scripture in Matthew, chapter 5, verse 9, **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.**

There are different types of peacemakers.

A friend of mine, Larry, was the husband of one of my soldiers in Germany and a former Marine. He said Marines are peacemakers. They fix things so there will be political solutions.

Pam Boyer says hypnotherapy is simply the induction of relaxation bringing peace, a feeling of tranquility. Priscilla Lindsay, another hypnotherapist, specializes in the reduction of pain without the use of drugs. Both therapists are RNs and work within the medical community. They are “peacemakers” of sorts.

But we are looking at a different kind of peacemaking!

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So . . .

I. What Does It Mean to Be a Peacemaker?

What does it mean to be a peacemaker? ⁴

Let's look at the meaning of the word in this scripture.

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The word peace here ¹ means the absence of trouble; harmonious relationships. ⁶ But Lord Jesus probably spoke these words in Aramaic, a dialect of Hebrew.

The common word, ² even today, for peace means to be safe from physical harm. It also means to be prosperous financially and to be complete as a person. It has the idea of the well being of the total person. It's everything that makes for that person's highest good. So, it's more than just freedom from trouble. It's like the enjoyment of all that is good. ⁷

What are peacemakers? ⁸

They are like, what Larry implied, **those who are used to bring about a diplomatic solution to warring**

¹ εἰρηνοποιός.

² שלום

countries or regions. You send out the Marines! The US philosophy behind our military rules of engagement is never for conquest. It's to bring about a climate of peace to the area of operation for the purpose of bringing about a diplomatic solution to a political problem. A Canadian journalist said of the United States, "The reason American is great is because America is good. If the time ever comes when America ceases to be good, she will cease to be great"! ⁹

There are those who establish good relationships with others.

There are always those who will stir up trouble and tension. But there are others who seem to be able to unite brothers and sisters harmoniously.

God's word instructs us to be these kinds of people. ¹⁰ Romans, chapter 14, verse 19 says, **Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.** ¹¹ First Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 13, **Live in peace with each other.** ¹² Again, in

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

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We have an example of this instruction in the ancient church, I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord.³ 14

Then, we have those who, simply, strive to make the world a better place to live in. Abraham Lincoln once said, “Die when I may, I would like it to be said of me that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower should grow”. 15

Then, there are people like Hudson Taylor who introduced so many to the Lord when he founded China Inland Mission. 16

Most everyone is familiar with the ministry of Mother Theresa who dedicated her life to helping the poverty stricken on the streets of Calcutta in India. 17

³ Philippians 4:2.

Who hasn't heard of Billy Graham or Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, who introduced thousands of people to the Lord throughout the world? ¹⁸

There are **those like you who have made their peace with God**. We all struggle with living a consistent Christian life when there are temptations all around us. You become a peacemaker when you introduce others to the Lord Jesus! Each of you are capable of witnessing and leading someone to Him!

So, that's what peacemakers are. ¹⁹

II. What Does It Mean to be Called the Sons of God?

What does it mean to be called the sons of God? ²⁰

What does the phrase "son of" mean? ²¹

In Hebrew and Aramaic, our Lord's spoken languages, it meant identification with your father and family. "Ben" or "Bar" meant "son of". In the movie "Ben

Hur”, Charleston Heston played the part of Judah ben Hur, “Judah, Son of Hur”.²²

But it was also used in place of an adjective when used as an abstract noun. So, a man could be called “a son of peace” instead of “a peaceful man”.²³ An example of this type of grammar is Acts, chapter 4, verses 36 and 37, **Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.**²⁴

Did you know that the Bible says that **God is known as a peacemaker!**²⁵

First Corinthians, chapter 14, verse 33 says, **For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.**²⁶

The Apostle Paul finished the Book of Romans with the salutation, **The God of peace be with you all.**⁴ ²⁷ He also concludes another one of his New Testament books with, **Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for**

⁴ Romans 15:33.

perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. ⁵ 28

Again, in I Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 23, **May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.** 29

Finally, Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 20 says, **May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep.** 30

So, “Sons of God” means that peacemakers are two things. They are doing the work of God or a “god-like” work. 31 And, they are so identified with spiritual maturity that they are completely identified with God!

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So, when you become a peacemaker, you become completely identified with God.

Isn't that what you want?

⁵ II Corinthians 13:11.

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