



John Battaglia, D. Min.
PO Box 891, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-355-4161//Twitter @johnabattaglia
John.battaglia@capitolcom.org

Peacemakers

Weekly Bible Study Schedule

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 AM in HHR #5
(breakfast provided)

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 AM in HHR #5
(casual conversations about the Bible and life)

Capitol Commission is non-partisan and non-denominational

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matt 5:9 ESV)

The seventh beatitude spoken by Jesus is a description of Christian character. The Christ-follower is a peacemaker. Jesus’ sermon on the mount is an invitation for followers, curious bystanders, religious practitioners and the irreligious to follow the Christ-way.

What is peace? In the Bible, the word “shalom” (or peace) is more than the absence of conflict. It’s a planned peace. A plan to be peaceable; to promote health and wholeness with those in one’s life. It’s an intentional asking: What will promote peace?

Might we agree, we’ve all heard the saying: “World Peace”? While Jesus’ words have traversed the world, His message of peacemaking is in the sphere of personal relationships. Our arena is not necessarily “global” it’s primarily personal.

Strife and conflict are not limited to invading armies. In Psalm 55:12-13, King David of Israel said:

“It is not an enemy who taunts me—I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me—I could have hidden

from them. Instead, it is you—my equal, my companion and close friend.”

Adversaries rose-up from among David’s people. David speaks words that are understood by anyone who knows the grief of trust being betrayed in a marriage, in a business partnership, at a work-desk, across an aisle, inside a church, or even as close as a handshake.

“My companion stretched out his hand against his friends... He violated his covenant. His speech was as smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart.” (Psalm 55:20-21)

What will promote peace when betrayed? What will promote peace when promises are broken? What will promote peace when words cut rather than heal? What will promote peace when disagreements ensue? What will promote peace when facing pain, sickness, or disappointments?

It takes more than a skilled negotiator to promote peace. It takes more than the absence of conflict to find peace.

There are peacemakers and there are peace breakers. God is a peacemaker and calls His sons/daughters to peacemaking.

We are peacemakers when we:

1. Emulate the nature of God

There is no tension between God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Spirit. The persons of the Trinity are one in purpose, one in love. God is the God of peace. In the Bible, He is called: “The God of peace” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Our Lord Jesus Christ is described as “the Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).



John Battaglia, D. Min.
PO Box 891, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-355-4161//Twitter @johnabattaglia
John.battaglia@capitolcom.org

Peacemakers

The Bible says that Christ is our peace. All our peace is going to come from him and through him (Colossians 1:19-20). The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Peace” (Matthew 3:16). When Jesus was baptized, Matthew tells us that the Spirit of God descended on him as a dove. Everyone knows that the dove is the symbol of peace.

2. Follow the way of the Lord

When faced with the betrayal of friendship Jesus moved toward trouble. The last person one would expect to be at the “last supper” is Judas, a turncoat disciple. Our calling is to act as peacemakers. That is what Jesus did with Judas. While we are to not start trouble, there are times to move toward trouble. When there is conflict in relationship it’s not my inclination to move toward the conflict. My natural bent is to avoid trouble, however, making peace does not mean avoiding conflict. Bring peace to your conflict.

“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Jesus moved toward us when He came from heaven to earth. Jesus moved toward us when He sacrificed His sinless life for our sinful life by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Peacemakers bring peace into conflict.

3. Follow the teaching of Scripture

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:2-3)”

Christ was in the form of God, yet, when He came to earth He chose to yield His divine rights to embrace the form of a man. He came into the world for us. Why? To make peace. You will not make peace by standing on your rights.

We live in a world of rights, where people often say, “It’s my right.” It may be your right, and there may be times when it is appropriate to insist on your rights, but what is the best way to make peace?

Every time you think about your rights, remind yourself, “If God stood on his rights, I would be separated from Him forever and so would everyone else.” You don’t make peace by standing on your rights. You make peace when you yield your rights to God in- order to promote peace.

4. Cast your burdens upon the Lord

Conflict disrupts peace. The weights of life: sickness disease, financial pressure, disappointments, failure, looming decisions have a way of stealing peace.

“Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall.” (Psalm 55:22)

Jesus says, *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”*

The designation as “sons” is another way of saying there is a likeness, specifically reflected in behavior.

Why are the peacemakers blessed? Peacemakers have a family resemblance to their heavenly Father. Their actions mark their identity as sons and daughters of God. Sons and daughters of God do what their heavenly Father does – they make peace.

Peacemakers are not out defending their rights, worried about their interests, or fueling conflicts, because they approach relationships aware that God holds the record books. We don’t have to strike out against others, because God will settle our accounts.

“...If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:7)