

PEACEMAKERS IN A WORLD OF TROUBLEMAKERS

January 26, 2014 Matthew 5:9 by Bob Branch

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” **Matthew 5:9**

“those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.” **James 3:18** NLT

MAIN IDEA: Peacemaking: it’s the family business. What does peacemaking, from God’s perspective, mean to us and how we conduct our lives?

Peace-Shalom (*eirene*): soundness, wholeness... life as God originally intended it to be; harmony in all directions

Shalom comes wherever God is allowed to be God.

1. Peacemaking starts with **JESUS** and you.

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 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.” **Colossians 1:19–20**

“since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” **Romans 5:1** NET (Acts 10:36)

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...” **2 Corinthians 5:18**

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” **Col. 3:15**

2. His peace brings **HARMONY** to *our* inner being as we agree with God’s truth and what he says about us.

“As for me, it matters very little how I might be evaluated by you or by any human authority. I don’t even trust my own judgment on this point. My conscience is clear, but that doesn’t prove I’m right. It is the Lord himself who will examine me and decide.” **1 Corinthians 4:3–4** NLT

3. Peacemaking must **MOVE OUTWARD** to others, and to everything!

“those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.” **James 3:18** NLT

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.”

2 Corinthians 5:18–20

Reconcile, bring others together...

Bring Jesus...

Build bridges...

Diffuse animosity...

Bring forgiveness...

Stand with others in the storms of life...

Humble ourselves...

Refuse to tolerate disunity...

Ambassadors...

4. Jesus is the **MODEL**: it involves sacrifice, a cross.

“Love your enemies... Go the second mile.” **Matthew 5:38-47**

Bonhoeffer: “Christians make peace by choosing to endure the suffering themselves rather than inflicting it on others.”

- Affirm your identity as a peacemaker
- Acknowledge any resistance to God in our hearts, as God to free us, melt rebellion.
- Acknowledge any fear or anger, and turn to God, ask for help.
- Affirm the Gospel: that God made peace with you all on his own!