



Blessed are the Peacemakers

The peacemaker is called "the sons of God." The absence and opposite of peace is war, strife, and hostility. We enjoy peace. After a long day with the kids, mom just wants some peace and quiet. The old tombstones often had R.I.P., which stood for 'Rest In Peace.' We want peace. We enjoy peace. We want peace to be maintained. But here, the Lord is focusing upon the ones that makes peace.

As in the other beatitudes, this quality is directed spiritually. The Lord's words are not about nations fighting each other in wars, or strife within a nation caused by unrest. The peace is with God. The maker of peace is the one who brings the broken soul to the Lord.

- Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear."
- Romans 5:10 "For if while 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."
- Ephesians 2:13-14 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ, for He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall."
- Ephesians 2:17 "And He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near."
- Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- Colossians 3:15 "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

The troubles in the world are sin based

1. To be at peace with God is to be in a _____ relationship with the Lord
 - peace with God takes place as one is reconciled and forgiven by the blood of Jesus
 - there is a calmness and a confidence in knowing that one walks faithfully with the Lord

2. God expects His children to be at _____ with others (Rom 12:18; 14:19)

One writer observed: "Churches are getting over problems, or they are in the middle of a problem, or they are about ready to have problems."

3. A peacemaker is a form of _____. It is through the teaching of the Gospel that one can have peace with God.

- the opposite of a peacemaker is a trouble maker, an irritator, an agitator, someone that stirs up controversy. All of this leads to trouble, misery, division and heartache.
- The peacemaker is one who sows seeds of peace
- like that tiny seed pushing up through the soil, the Gospel of Jesus pushes through worry, doubt, prejudice, hatred and fear.

4. Called "sons of God" - it is the same as those who _____ their enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Mt 5:44).

- They are doing what Jesus did (Isa 9:6; Lk 19:10), bringing peace to a broken world.

