

“Peace Maker or Peace Keeper”

July 18, 2010

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

“Blessing” - *The pleasures of God that satisfy the soul.*

Today’s Message: *Peace comes through prayer & hard work.*

Peace is like a river: fluid, needs channeled, dries up.

A. “Peace” – relational harmony with God and others

B. “Peacemakers” – Rom. 12:18-19; Heb. 12:14-15

Assertively pray and work to resolve issues with truth and love, leaving the results up to God.

C. “Peacemakers” first need to experience Jesus as:

1. Peace WITH God in Christ. Ephes. 2:14-18
2. Peace OF God. Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:6-7; Gal. 5
 - a. Then we are “*sons of God.*”

D. “Sandwich” Model of Confrontation: 2 Cor. 7

1. **Prayer of blessing for the “food”** - Ask God to give the gift of peace through the Holy Spirit.
2. **“Bread”** (Bottom Slice) - Express your love for the person and desire for reconciliation.
3. **“Meat”** - Assertively state the issues with truth and love in order to work toward reconciliation.
4. **“Cheese”** - Listen for the purpose of understanding, and willingness to be corrected.
5. **“Bread”** (Top Slice) – Giving & receiving forgiveness.

E. “Peace Keeper” or “Conflict Bringer” – peace at any cost or win at any cost?

SO PRAY & WORK FOR THE PEACE OF GOD!

DNA Discussion Guide

“Peace Maker or Peace Keeper” Matthew 5:9

Opening Prayer: Jesus give us your peace!

Today’s Message: *Peace comes through prayer & hard work.*

Digging In:

1. Why is peace so hard to experience? With God? Within our own minds and hearts? With others?
2. Peace is a feeling, but feelings come and go. What is peace as God defines it? Jn. 14:27; Eph. 2:14-18; Gal. 5:22; Phil. 4:6-7
3. Peacemakers assertively pray and work to resolve issues with truth and love, leaving the results up to God. What has your experience been with “peace-making”?
4. Read through 2 Cor. 7. What stands out to you about Paul’s method of confrontation in order to bring peace?
5. If “peace keeping” is trying to maintain peace at any cost, how have you experienced that? What’s your definition of a “conflict bringer”?
6. Now for a “curve ball” – What does Jesus mean by saying, “I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.” Matthew 10:32-39

Application:

1. Which way does your personality lean you – “peace keeper” or “conflict bringer”?
2. What can you apply to your life from Paul’s model of confrontation in 2 Cor. 7 in order to become a peacemaker?

Share prayer requests and pray for each other.

This week meditate on the next Beatitude – Mt. 5:10