

# The Peacemakers

## *Matthew 5:9*

### I. The Meaning of Peace

#### A. What Jesus Does Not Mean

1. All conflict is wrong.
2. Self-defense is wrong.
3. War is always wrong, and Christians must be pacifists.
4. Blessed are those with a naturally peaceful disposition.
5. Nations should seek to avoid war by appeasement.
6. Blessed are those who don't like conflict and avoid it.

# Conflict is only biblical if...

## 1. The reason is biblical

- Confronting sin (Mt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 5:20; Tit. 3:10)
- Defending truth (Gal. 2:5, 11-14; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3; 4:7; Titus 1:9; Jude 3)

## 2. The motive is biblical (Gal. 2:5, 13a)

## 3. The attitude & communication are biblical (Eph. 4:29-32)

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### I. The Meaning of Peace

A. What Jesus Does Not Mean

B. What Jesus Means—*a healthy relationship*

### II. The Need for Peace

A. By nature, every person is at war with God (Is. 42:13-14; Rom. 5:10; 8:7; 2 Th. 1:7-9).

B. By nature, every person is at war with others (Rom. 3:15-17; Gal. 5:19-21; Titus 3:3; Jam. 4:1-10).

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### III. The Foundation of Peace

#### A. The Character of God

1. The Father (Rom. 15:33; 16:20; Phil. 4:9; 1 Th. 5:23; Heb. 13:20)
2. The Son (Is. 9:6)
3. The Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

#### B. The Mission of the Son (Lk. 1:79; 2:14; Eph. 2:13-14)

#### C. The Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15; Col. 1:19-22)

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### IV. The Practice of Peace

- A. Pursue peace between sinners and God by praying for their salvation (1 Tim. 2:1-5) and by sharing the gospel (2 Cor. 5:17-21).
- B. Pursue peace between ourselves and others (Ps. 34:14; Mt. 5:23ff; 18:15ff; Rom. 12:18; Heb. 12:14)
  - 1. If you sinned, go and seek to be reconciled (Mt. 5:23-24).
  - 2. If you've been sinned against, go and seek to be reconciled (Mt. 18:15-17).
- C. Pursue peace between others in conflict (Mt. 5:9)

### V. The Blessing of Peace—*"called sons of God"*