

## PeaceMakers: The Children of God

Matthew 5:1-12, Micah 4:1-5

June 18, 2-17, Fathers' Day

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

- What will you give God for Fathers' Day?
- ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*** (Matthew 5:9)
- The world needs PeaceMakers right now.
- We live in a time of violence and division.
  - Violence against and by Police
  - Terrorism: Anniversary of Pulse. Manchester. London. Sandy Hook,
  - Gangs
  - Robberies and even murders in this zip code!
  - Not to mention family violence.
  - The shooting of the congressional baseball team underscores the deep division in our nation.
  - One vocally liberal friend of mine tried to blame the shooting on President Trump.
- ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.*** (Matthew 5:9)

### 1. The ultimate PeaceMaker is Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:19-20 *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.*

- The beatitudes describe the character of Christ.

***3 "Blessed (Happy, beatifica, blissful) are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

**4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

**5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

**6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

**7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.**

**8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

**9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

**10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

■ But today we focus on Christ as PeaceMaker.

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

■ Gospel Presentation

■ If we want to be PeaceMakers, we have to have experienced the peace of Christ!

2. Christ-followers can have supernatural peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 **6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

- **Peace is from Christ**

John 14:27 ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

- **Peace is the fruit of the Spirit**

Galatians 5:22 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ...***

3. God's Kingdom is a kingdom of peace.

Micah 4:3 (= Isaiah 2:4) ***(When the Lord returns,) He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.***

- **How we long for that day! How we long for peace!**

4. Christ-followers are called to be PeaceMakers

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

Romans 12:18 ***If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.***

- **Sometimes it isn't up to you, but do all you can!**

- **Mike and Julie after the funeral.**

Colossians 3:15-16 ***Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.***

- **People have destroyed the peace of Christ by fighting over whether to sing psalms, hymns or songs of the Spirit!**

- **Presbyterians and Psalms**

- Cf. “When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder” yesterday.
- Today we’ve sung a hymn and a “Song of the Spirit.” Before we leave, we will sing a psalm.

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

- Note verse 2 gives us guidance on how to make peace. It takes *every* effort!

5. PeaceMakers are not the same as pacifists.

Romans 13:4 ***For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.***

- Presbyterians were invited by the Quakers to settle in Western Pennsylvania, because the Presbys would fight the Native Americans!

6. Woodbury Church is in a special position to be PeaceMakers.

Galatians 3:28 ***There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

Ephesians 2:14-17 ***For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and***

***preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.***

- (Talking specifically about Jew and Gentile, but applies to Jews and all kinds of Gentiles!)
- We have many differences: Racial, political, Socio-economic, educational.
- **But we are one in Christ.**
- He is our peace.
- Kaleidoscope of skin. My kids saw people. Who we should see is Christ.
- When we gather, we are an example of unity to a divided world.
- **We are an example of love in a world where hatred is on the rise.**
- We are PeaceMakers.

7. I will be a PeaceMaker by pointing people to Christ and \_\_\_\_\_

- **We start by pointing people to the Ultimate PeaceMaker.**
- **But we might take other specific steps.**

***Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.***

- What to wear to church: Not just an ugly tie.
- Is there a relationship you need to mend?
- **Someone you need to forgive?**
- Maybe you can be a PeaceMaker at work. Or in your family.
- Maybe you can be a PeaceMaker on Social Media. Or in the church.

- What will you give God for Fathers' Day?
- ***Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.***

Prayer for Peace (Attributed to St. Francis)

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.  
O, Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to  
console;  
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.**

## PeaceMakers: The Children of God

Matthew 5:1-12, Micah 4:1-5

June 18, 2-17, Fathers' Day

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

1. The ultimate PeaceMaker is \_\_\_\_\_.

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

2. Christ-followers can have \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 ***6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

John 14:27 ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

Galatians 5:22 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,***

3. God's Kingdom is a kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_.

Micah 4:3 (= Isaiah 2:4) ***He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.***

4. \_\_\_\_\_ are called to be PeaceMakers.

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

Romans 12:18 ***If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.***

Colossians 3:15-16 ***Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.***

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

5. PeaceMakers are not the same as \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 13:4 ***For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.***

6. \_\_\_\_\_ is in a special position to be PeaceMakers.

Galatians 3:28 ***There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

Ephesians 2:14-17 ***For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.***

7. I will be a PeaceMaker by pointing people to Christ and \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 3:12-14 ***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.***

Prayer for Peace (Attributed to St. Francis)

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love;**

**where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;**

**where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;**

**where there is sadness, joy.**

**O, Divine Master,**

**grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;**

**to be understood as to understand;**



**to be loved as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying  
that we are born again to eternal life.**