

‘8 Ingredients to Authentic Happiness: Peacemakers’ Matt. 5:9

Series title: What does it mean to live a good life?

Introduction: Peace is one of the most dominant ideas found throughout the Bible, yet it is scarce upon this earth. In this 7th beatitude, Jesus calls us to be peacemakers, peace bringers.

I. What kind of peace are we talking about here?

A. One important thing to remember here is that this peace is more than just the absence of conflict. Countries, even marriages, can have a truce and end the conflict but still have a ‘cold war.’ God’s kind of peace goes way beyond that sort of thing. God’s peace deals with truth and righteousness. God’s peace doesn’t gloss over sin and rebellion and say: ‘that’s okay, let’s just live in peace.’

B. Jesus never evaded the issues yet He is the _____ of Peace. God’s supernatural peace is never peace at any price. It doesn’t sweep things under the rug and say: ‘let’s not talk about that.’

It is a personal inner peace that only God can give.

II. Who is the real peace maker?

A. People are without peace today because they are without God. Why is this? Because God is the source of real peace. John 16:33

B. People may have the best of circumstances, yet without God, never seem to find a lasting peace. But people even with terrible circumstances, yet have God, never need to lack peace; because God is the source of peace, not our circumstances. When we pray, we can experience His peace. Phil. 4:6,7

III. What does it mean to be a peacemaker?

A. First, a peacemaker is someone who himself has made peace with God. Rom. 5:1

B. A peacemaker leads others to make peace with God. We are people who have been _____ of our sins and thus can have peace with God, thus we desire others to find this peace as well.

C. A peacemaker helps others make peace with other people. A Christian is to be a peacemaker, a peace-bringer, a bridge-builder between people. Rom. 12:18

God’s people can contend without being contentious. They can disagree without being disagreeable. We are to speak the truth but in love, and you could say that every real act of love is an act of peace.

IV. What is the result of being a peacemaker?

A. Blessings! Approved by God. Happy are the peacemakers ...

B. You will be called ‘sons of God’! Children of God. We may appreciate our family heritage, and rightly so, but that just can’t compare with being a child of God! What a _____!

C. God’s peacemakers will not always have peace with the world, but as God’s children we can always have peace while in the world. As Jesus said, it is a peace that the world cannot give and thus cannot take away, unless we let them.

D. How about you? Are you a peacemaker? Any areas of your life lacking peace? Perhaps lacking peace with God, peace with another, peace with your current lot in life? You can choose to be a bringer of peace or one who stirs up strife. Ask God to make you a peacemaker!