



Pastor's Pen

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

Dear Bethel Church family and friends,

Grace and peace from Him Who is, Who was, and Who ever will be. I pray you had a blessed Easter and are looking forward to the end of school and the start of the vacation season.

We continue our study of the Beatitudes from Matthew 5. If you've been reading along, you'll remember these behaviors are the fruit of a life transformed by a relationship with the Living God. This month we've arrived at the seventh beatitude, ***"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God."***

What is a peacemaker? Being a peacemaker involves more than talking about peace, promoting tranquility between neighbors, or sticking a bumper sticker on your car preaching tolerance. Indeed, a peacemaker takes an active role in building harmony between people and helping to resolve conflict wherever we find it. Notice that Jesus did not say, "Blessed are the peace lovers." Almost everyone loves the thought of peace. But just because you enjoy it does not mean you are willing to do what is necessary, and sometimes painful, to make or keep real, lasting tranquility. Unfortunately, enjoying true harmony in our relationships sometimes means stepping into conflict in order to bring lasting serenity. Reconciliation often requires the uncomfortable and unsettling process of Biblical confrontation, as described in Matthew 18. Church, real peacemakers take the time and effort necessary to work toward enduring reconciliation.

Having looked at what a peacemaker does, we now ask ourselves why we need to act as peacemakers.

Unfortunately, the simple answer to that question is sin. We live in a world without peace because we live after Eden, and all inherited Adam's fallen nature. Thus, we are surrounded by sinful people, even the one looking back at us in the mirror. Our own transgressions destroy the peace between individuals and the Lord God Almighty, too. What's the cause of turmoil in our personal lives or the church? It's sinfulness, my friends. The sooner we recognize this, the sooner we can begin working at restoring harmony to broken relationships.

What benefit does the Christian gain from being a peacemaker? Our Lord tells us we will be called the 'sons of God.' This vital phrase describes a family relationship. However, the sonship of a believer is not acquired naturally from our father or mother. It's supernaturally obtained when we're born again. Because of His gracious mercy, our Heavenly Father declares us righteous through faith alone in Christ's redemptive work on the cross. But that's not all. We're also adopted by God into His family, as we read in Romans 8:14-15, ***"because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him, we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"***

Not only is there benefit involved in being a child of God, but this relationship also brings responsibility. As Christians, we all have the awesome duty to represent Jesus Christ to a watching world faithfully. So, as children of God, those chosen and dearly loved, let us prioritize more accurately reflecting the Spirit of sonship we've received by promoting peace wherever we find sinful conflict. May the Lord grant you a blessed and peaceful month.

Grace and peace to you,
Pastor Chris

this week

Sunday's sermon

Until I Declare
Psalm 71:1-24

events

Youth
4/27 at 5:00 pm

Senior Citizens Lunch
4/30 at 12:00 pm
covered dish meal and
special entertainment

volunteer schedule

Infant Nursery
Douglas McCarter & Laura Clinton

Toddler Nursery
Harper Harvell & Lindsay Hoffman

Worship Training
Ilse Wallace & Grace Benes