

Let Us Be Peacemakers
(Matthew 5:9)

Introduction:

1. Jesus began His Sermon on the Mount by giving what we commonly call "the Beatitudes" (Matthew 5:3-12).
2. In these Beatitudes, Jesus showed His followers how to receive some very special spiritual blessings.
3. This evening we are concentrating on the 7th Beatitude that Jesus gave in Matthew 5:9 - "*Blessed are the peacemakers.*"
4. To help us appreciate the seriousness of this Beatitude, let us first consider God's feelings.

Discussion:

- I. GOD LOVES "PEACE," AND HE HATES "CONFLICT"
 - A. In Psalm 133 David showed how God feels about "peace."
 - B. In Proverbs 6:16-19 Solomon showed how God feels about "conflict."
 - C. When we understand how God feels about "peace" and "conflict," perhaps we can more fully appreciate why . . .
- II. CHRISTIANS ARE REPEATEDLY TAUGHT TO PURSUE "PEACE"
 - A. Romans 12:18
 - B. Romans 14:19
 - C. 1 Thessalonians 5:13b
 - D. Hebrews 12:14
 - E. To help us understand what is involved in pursuing peace, let us consider . . .
- III. THREE PEACEMAKERS IN THE BIBLE
 - A. According to Genesis 13:7-9, Abraham was a peacemaker.
 - B. Isaac, Abraham's son, was also a peacemaker (Genesis 26:17-22).
 - C. Jesus was "*The Prince of Peace*" (Isaiah 9:6).
 1. He gives peace to His followers (John 14:27; 16:33).
 2. We must also consider His teaching in Matthew 10:32-38.
- IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT CONTAINS SOME SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR PEACEMAKERS
 - A. Ephesians 4:1-3 ["endeavor"]
 - B. Philippians 2:1-4 [being considerate of others]
 - C. Colossians 3:12-13 [Christ is our example]
 - D. James 3:13-18 [pursue the right kind of wisdom]
 - E. 1 Peter 3:10-11 [controlling the tongue]

Conclusion:

1. Being a peacemaker is not always easy.
2. Being a peacemaker can sometimes be quite challenging, especially in the world we live in today.
3. However, those who make peace will receive a great blessing -- "*they shall be called the children of God.*"
4. We learn how to become children of God in Galatians 3:26-27.