

Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9

Halifax: 9 April 2017

Introduction:

Last week we completed our sermon series from Genesis.

- We will be starting a series in Thessalonians in a few weeks, but first I want to do a couple of other sermons.
- And this week, because I was away at Presbytery and had a very busy week, I am going to preach from the Sermon on the Mount.
 - Some of you know that whenever I have had a busy week, I preach a message from the Sermon on the Mount because I have preached on it before.

So today, my text will be from Matthew 5:9, the beatitude about peacemakers.

- Our scripture reading this morning will be from Matthew 5:1-12.
- This is the holy and infallible Word of God.

Matthew 5:1-12: And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ² Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: ³ “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed *are* those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸ Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed *are* the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹² Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

And there we end the reading of God’s Word.

What a difference Jesus Christ makes in this sinful world!

1. He came to set up a kingdom of righteousness here!
 - He established it by being righteous as the representative of this kingdom—so that He, for the sake of all the members of it, pleases God...
 - And He established it as a righteous kingdom by atoning for the sin of all who are in it.
 - And, in addition to that, He establishes it by transforming all who are in it, giving them the Holy Spirit who causes them to be born again so that they repent of their sin, trust in Christ for forgiveness and acceptance with God, and live a new life of obedience which will be brought to perfection at death.
2. In the beatitudes, Jesus shows how the ones who are blessed in His kingdom are changed.
 - a. In each beatitude, He first describes the new life that they are given—so that they are poor in spirit (see that they are sinners),
 - So that they mourn over their sin, and become meek before God...
 - So that they hunger and thirst for righteousness...
 - And are merciful, pure in heart, and become peacemakers...

- And so that they are persecuted by the god of this world and by his minions in this world...
- b. And then after these descriptions of their new character, Jesus describes the blessings that they are given—promises...
 - promises that they will inherit the kingdom of heaven,
 - that they will be comforted,
 - that they will inherit the earth and be filled with righteousness,
 - that they will obtain mercy and see God and be called His sons,
 - And that they will have a great reward in heaven.
- 3. Last time, we looked at verse 8, **Blessed are the pure in heart**, and today I want to focus on verse 9, **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.**
 - When we belong to His kingdom by faith, He changes us from peace-breakers to peacemakers
 - Isaiah describes the beautiful change in Isaiah 11 (which we read earlier):
 - In verses 6-9, He says: **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.**
 - Jesus is the *Prince of Peace*, who changes people who were once hostile, and causes them to dwell together in peace!
 - The world is in a condition of enmity with God and with each other...
 - But by His powerful grace, Jesus changes our very nature!
 - He makes peace-breakers into peacemakers.

I. **But just what is a peacemaker?**

- A. A peacemaker is a person who loves peace and who labours for peace.
 - Stated negatively...
 - He is one who hates hostility and division and who works to eliminate it...
 - 1. A peacemaker loves peace because he himself has been reconciled to God.
 - “reconciled” means brought to peace with...
 - And if you have tasted such peace, you love it.
 - It is wonderful to know that God’s “anger is turned away!”
 - to experience **shalom**:
 - not merely absence of hostility,
 - but total well-being and unity.
 - You want this peace for everyone.
 - 2. And as a peacemaker, you will not settle for superficial peace...
 - You only want the real thing.
 - You will avoid the two kinds of peace that are false...
 - The “peace” that is sought by escaping from God...
 - And the “peace” that is sought by force.

- Let me describe these
 - a. You are very familiar with the way the world tries to make peace by escaping from God—that is the way of peace that is the most common in our day.
 - 1) It is the peace that is sought by agreeing to let everyone live however they please.
 - Children are given freedom to do whatever they please.
 - They are allowed to shout at their parents or to make demands of them, and they certainly are not expected to honour them.
 - When they get older, they are more or less expected to experiment with sex outside of marriage...
 - They are not expected to work hard or even to be honest.
 - And even at church, they are not taught to worship in the way God wants, but in whatever way *they* want.
 - 2) And when they get older, the freedom goes on...
 - They need not keep their marriage vows, or even get married at all if they want to keep on sleeping around...
 - And if they conceive a child, they can choose to kill it if they want.
 - Things have gone to such extremes that people are even left to decide what gender they want to be if they don't like the way God made them.
 - 3) This is a false way to peace where everyone does what is right in his own eyes.
 - But this is not peace because it is running away from God who is our Creator and Lawgiver—the One who is supposed to direct our lives.
 - And the selfishness that comes from pursuing peace in this way causes conflict with each other—
 - Because our own desires clash with the desires of others...
 - We are like the five children who all want half the cake—there are only two halves, so only two could have that.
 - In the end, there is war instead of peace.
 - b. And the other kind of superficial peace—the kind that tries to make peace by force—is also doomed to failure...
 - 1) We actually see this peace in our society as well.
 - We have a lot of rules imposed on us to try to force us to be considerate and to not abuse others.
 - Societies cry out for dictators to escape the anarchy that comes if there are no rules.
 - 2) This kind of peace also fails because it does not reach the heart.
 - Don't get me wrong—we have to have rules and order and enforcement because people are wicked and must be restrained.
 - We can see with abortion what happens when the law is lifted—people start aborting like mad!

- But when the hearts of those who are under the laws and rules are not changed, they are rebellious inside, even while conforming outwardly,
 - The rebellion is just waiting to break out and destroy the superficial peace.
 - They will disobey whenever they can get away with it, and if they can raise up a revolt, they will.
 - Such is the child who rebels when he leaves home, or the workers that organise against their employers.
 - The heart of the employer is not in wanting to provide for his workers, and their heart is not in wanting to serve.
 - That is the sorry condition of this world.
- So even though both freedom as well as law and order can give a superficial kind of peace, a true peacemaker wants something much better than that!
- 3. The kind of peace you try to make if you are a peacemaker is peace that comes from a heart that wants to please God.
 - a. As a parent, instead of having a bunch of rules with a bunch of penalties and things, you want children with a heart for God!
 - You want your ten year old to see that his 12 year old sister has a big project for school and offer to do her chores for her...
 - Husbands who are peacemakers want wives that, instead of fighting with them and criticising them when they try to do something for God's kingdom to support them and encourage them from the heart.
 - And wives who are peacemakers want husbands that will have their eyes on God, so that instead of ignoring them and their children will have a heart to lead them and to serve them—
 - that they will not be put into a place of temptation to nag them.
 - b. And in the church—elders who are peacemakers don't want to have peace either by lowering God's standards or by having to threaten the flock with church discipline...
 - They want a congregation that loves God and is eager to do His will...people that are looking for help to do His will instead having to be chased after and confronted...and given rules and regulations
 - c. And those who are peacemakers will try to foster this kind of peace.
 - Instead of being either indifferent or harsh and controlling—
 - they will seek to influence by example and encouragement...
 - to bring out the best in their subordinates and in their leaders.
 - Yes, a parent who is a peacemaker will use a rod of correction, but to get the attention of the child and to reach his heart—not just to control him.
 - And a child, rather than using whining and rebellion to manipulate his parents, will seek to bring out the best in his parents by submitting to their leadership—by letting them lead—launching their leadership.

TRANS> Yes, a true peacemaker wants the peace that God gives...

- A peace where there is true reconciliation...

- A peace where everyone is working together to serve God in true harmony...
- A peace where each is out for the other's good and for God's glory.
 - He wants the peace that God gives, not some cheap substitute.

B. In his love and labour for peace, a peacemaker is like God.

1. Peacemaking is one of God's most striking characteristics.
 - a. He is rightly called "the God of peace" and Jesus is called "the prince of peace"
 - b. Consider how God went way out of His way to make peace with us...
 - He gave His only Son...to die on the cross.
 - He wins us by loving us and providing for us.
 - c. He calls all men everywhere to peace...
 - Everyone is called to repent and believe, that we might have peace.
 - If we do not obey His gracious call, it is our own fault.

TRANS> God has done so much to make peace with us...

- He is the One who takes the initiative.
- He is the One who pays the price.
- Peacemaking is such a striking quality of God....
 - It is a feature that stands out...and it is wonderful.

2. So you can see why you will be called the "sons of God" if you are peacemakers.

- You will stand out like God does.
 - a. Other people will recognise the likeness and call you the sons of God.
 - They will see the family likeness and know that you are His child.
 - Other believers will see that you are like God and receive you as a brother.
 - Remember how Barnabas saw the change in Paul?
 - He knew that Paul who had been a murderer was now a peacemaker.
 - He saw the change, and soon everyone saw it.
 - They knew that Paul had become a child of God.
 - When you are a peacemaker,
 - Other believers will receive you as a son...
 - and even some unbelievers will recognise it, though they will not always admit it or like it.

TRANS> But what is even better...

b. God Himself will call you a son...

- 1) He will declare it to you by His Spirit.
 - **Rom 8:16: The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**
 - The Holy Spirit is said to cause us to cry out "Abba, Father" to God—
 - He gives us assurance that we are God's children.
- 2) God will also call you His sons on the day of judgement
 - In this world, peacemakers will often suffer...
 - But the scriptures say that God comforts us inwardly by His Spirit now, calling us sons...and then will vindicate us on judgment day.

- **Rom 8:19: For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**

3) And if God calls you His sons, it is because you *are* His sons in truth.

- God will not call anyone a son who is not a son...
- He will not call anyone who is not a peacemaker His son.
- To them He will say,
 - **“Depart from me, I never knew you.”**
 - But what comfort it will be for the peacemaker to hear:
 - **Matthew 25:34: Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**

➤ You will be called a son of God!

c. What a very high honour and blessing it is to be God’s sons!

- It means that you have a permanent inheritance with God.
- It means that you have His affection and love forever.
- It means that you are Jesus’ brother and will be with Him forever in the blessed family of God.

TRANS> Now I hope you all understand what we have seen so far...

- When Jesus blesses you in this world,
 - He really does transform you so that you are not what you were.
 - You who were proud really do become poor in spirit...
 - You who did not seek God really do start hungering and thirsting for righteousness.
 - And you who were a peace-breaker really do become a peacemaker.
- But you know that you are by no means perfect.
 - Jesus has truly begun a good work in you,
 - but you still come short of the glory of God and are only accepted because of Jesus’ righteousness...
 - Nevertheless, the Spirit has given you a new heart so that you want to be like God.
 - You want to imitate Him and be renewed in His image...
 - You want to be a peacemaker—and a better peacemaker than you are.
- And because I know that you who know Him want that,
 - I want to go over some things that a peacemaker will do
 - and some things he will not do.

II. What are some things that a peacemaker will *not* do?

A. A peacemaker will not refuse to confront sin when called to do so.

1. A peacemaker knows that sin sets persons **against** one another.

- a. Consider the Ten Commandments—
 - What battles have been fought because men worship other gods...
 - What divisions are in the church because of idolatry—worshipping in our own way instead of sticking to what God has said!
 - How the human race is divided and set to quarrelling because of rebellion against authority, murder and hatred, adultery, stealing, lying, covetousness!

- b. A peacemaker knows that sin is the cause of all division.
 - And so a peacemaker will confront sin when called to do so...
 - He will confront it with the goal of establishing peace.
2. But when are you called to confront sin?
- a. You are called to confront sin when your Christian brother sins against you.
 - You know what Jesus said in Matthew 18:15: **Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.**
 - Your goal is to restore peace between him and you.
 - b. You are called to confront sin when your son or daughter rebels.
 - **Prov 18:19: Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.**
 - **Prov 29:17: Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.**
 - Eli did not correct his sons and they were destroyed—
 - They did not know peace....
 - And they gave Eli no peace.
 - I hate to see parents letting their children speak defiantly—those poor children have consciences.
 - They know it is wrong, and by confronting them you restore peace in their heart—but by letting it go, you leave bitterness to grow stronger and stronger in their hearts.
 - It is cruel—and many parents think it is cruel to deal with it!
 - c. Also, when you see a brother caught sin, you are to go to help him.
 - **Gal 6:1: Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**
 - Don't just watch your brother overtaken by sin—
 - He is like the child ! He has no peace...
 - Go and do what you can to restore him...call him to repentance.
 - Be a peacemaker!
 - d. As you have opportunity, as a peacemaker, you will also confront sin in unbelievers.
 - 1) But let me tell you what sin to confront!
 - It is the greatest sin, the sin of which we are all guilty!
 - Original sin!
 - That we, the whole human race, have broken away from God and need to make peace with Him!
 - We are all in it together and Jesus is the way of peace!
 - 2) In 2 Cor 5, Paul speaks of the ministry of the word as the ministry of reconciliation—of making peace between God and sinful man:
 - **2 Cor. 5:18-20: Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to**

Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

- A peacemaker will attempt to lead everyone to God's promise of reconciliation—and you don't have to be an expert in the Bible!
 - Invite them to church,
 - Tell them of your own hope,
 - Live a life of peace with God before them.
- A peacemaker will not refuse to confront sin with a view to bringing about peace.
3. None of this is easy...
- a. You know that no one likes to be confronted about sin—
 - You know how hard it can be to receive correction yourself.
 - You would rather be the nice guy and say nothing.
 - b. There is danger in confronting sin...
 - look at what happened to John the Baptist for confronting Herod!
 - look at what happened to Jesus for confronting the Pharisees.
 - You can easily become the target of a sinner's aggression against God.
 - c. But the peacemaker will not refuse to confront sin...
 - Remember how Jesus pressed on and it will motivate you to press on.
 - Aren't you glad he did?
 - Can you give up when you see what your Saviour did?

TRANS> What else will a peacemaker not do...

- B. A peacemaker will not confront sin in a proud, offensive way
- 1. The servant of the LORD must not strive, but be gentle toward all.
 - a. Because you are guilty of the greatest sin (original sin), pride is out!
 - Do not go with the arrogance of one who is above his neighbour...
 - Go as a fellow sinner to testify of what God has done for you.
 - b. Do not go with hostility and rage, but with gentleness.
 - Your goal is to win, not to alienate your brother.
 - Your manner should be
 - "I have come to you because I love you and I want what is best for you."
 - 2. Special care is to be taken depending on the relationship...
 - A child is not to rebuke his parents, but to appeal to them with respect.
 - "Dad, can I talk to you? You and mom have been quarrelling and I wish you would talk to one of the elders. I love you and I love mom, and it is really unsettling to me when you quarrel."
 - A parent is not to abuse his authority by using harsh or abrasive speech.
 - Yes, you have authority in your home and you do not answer to your child, but that means that you do have to answer directly to God!
 - A wife is not to nag her husband, but to win him without a word.
 - Time does not allow me to go into all the details, but understand that the wife **is** to take action—

- She is to try to win her husband by active submission, by respect and support.

TRANS> Let's move on...

- What else will a peacemaker not do...

C. A peacemaker will not participate in gossip

1. Solomon said:

- **Pr 17:9: He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.**
- The best way to stir up division and destroy peace is to share gossip!
 - Either to listen to it or to do it yourself!
 - That is the way to separate friends!
- Gossip can be done in such subtle ways—
 - It's not always: "Well let me tell you..."
 - but it can be just sort of casually making known a fault or two—
 - or going with a "prayer request"...
 - Yet, what are you doing is turning people against their brother!

2. With your tongue, you can shoot deadly arrows at your brother without his even knowing about it.

a. That's what Psalm 64 speaks about when it speaks of those:

- **Psalm 64:3-4: Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend *their bows to shoot their arrows*—bitter words, that they may shoot in secret at the blameless; suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.**

b. It's very cruel and cowardly to attack with words behind his back...

- You are fighting a war against your brother and he doesn't even know about it!
- That's why there is no fear—
 - you can strike with your tongue-sword and he doesn't even see you do it!
 - He can't defend himself against the attack...
 - Yet the damage is done...
 - division is caused!

c. I am sure all of you have been hurt by gossip.

TRANS> A peacemaker will have nothing to do with gossip.

- He will not speak it or listen to it...
 - And if it comes his way, he will take the talebearer to talk to the brother.
- What else will a peacemaker not do?

D. If you are a peacemaker, you will not become easily offended.

1. You are not much of a peacemaker if you get angry over every little thing:

- "Joe didn't even speak to me"—so peace is destroyed.
- "Sally didn't even thank me."
- "Bill is always interrupting."
- "Patrice has such terrible table manners—I don't even want to eat with her"
- "Beatrice is so prim and proper, I don't want to eat with her."

- Don't let such foolish little things destroy peace with your brother for whom Christ died!
 - The Bible commands you to be forbearing and patient with your brother.
- 2. Just look at how Jesus lived with His disciples!
 - a. He could have been on their case constantly!
 - They were always doing selfish and unworthy things and He could see it all.
 - He could have been offended with them all the time, but he was selective in His rebukes.
 - He rebuked them for their unbelief, for trying to dissuade him from the cross, for arguing about who would be greatest, for asking him to rebuke parents who were bringing children to be blessed.
 - But He also passed over many things, as He told them, **John 16:12** **"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now."**
 - And that is how He deals with you now—
 - He works with you day by day in a gentle way, leading you into truth and holiness.
 - b. Jesus knew the difference between rebellion and immaturity.
 - You need to recognise the difference also in dealing with others!
 - An immature person may do many foolish things,
 - but he is growing, he is headed in the right direction.
 - That is what matters!

TRANS> So if you are a peacemaker, you will not be easily offended...

E. Neither will you take such offence that you refuse to be reconciled.

1. You've all seen that kind of attitude...
 - "I can never forgive *that*!"
 - How wrong this attitude is when you remember that Christ has forgiven you for so much greater an offense.
 - Remember the parable of the unforgiving servant?
 - He refused to forgive a little debt when his master had forgiven him a huge debt!
 - He was no peacemaker!
2. When you are legitimately offended, if you are a peacemaker you will always try to reconcile as we saw before.
 - But even if the one who sinned against you will not repent,
 - You will refuse to hold a grudge and will instead try to win your brother by doing good to him.

F. Finally, when you are a peacemaker, you will not read into the actions of others in an uncharitable way.

1. You will not be suspicious of others and think the worst of their motives.
 - Recently, we saw how Joseph's brothers were suspicious after their father died when they had no grounds for it.
 - I told you about those two girls I counselled who were in a cold war for a whole year because they read into each other's actions.

- When they finally realised what they had done, they were so ashamed and embarrassed—but they made peace.
2. Jay Adams tells the story of a woman who saw her good friend sitting across the church...
- She had not seen her for a long time, so after church she rushed over to greet her.
 - Her friend threw her head back and rushed out of the room!
 - The woman was offended until she spoke to her friend and was told...
 - “I didn’t even see you... my nose starting running...and I had nothing to wipe it with, so I was running off to my car to get some tissue.”

TRANS> So those are some things that a peacemaker will not do. And now...

III. What are some things you *will* do if you are peacemaker?

- A. If you are a peacemaker, you will do good to all people.
1. The Bible advocates this as the way to make peace with your enemy.
- a. **Romans 12:18: “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”**
- You can’t control how other people will respond, but you are to do your part.
- b. What can you do?
- Rather than taking vengeance (trying to get even) you are told to do good to your enemy.
 - **“If he is hungry given him something to eat...”**
 - You are to actively look for things you can do for him...
 - to work hard at planning good—
 - It won’t happen unless you plan it.
 - If you do this, you are a peacemaker, no matter how your enemy responds.
2. Now if this is the way to make peace (to be a peacemaker) with an enemy, how much more is it the way to promote peace with your friends!
- a. A peacemaker maintains and promotes peace by doing good to other Christians!
- The church is to be a place of love and concord.
 - Too often it is a place of division and strife.
 - One of the reasons this is so is because you have not done your part to do good to your brothers and sisters.
 - God binds us together in local churches so that we might learn to dwell together in the unity of the Spirit....
 - That we might display His love in our assembly.
 - If you search out needs and then meet those needs with eager enthusiasm, you do your part to promote peace.
- b. Surely this same attitude ought to characterise you to your own family!
- You are to be a peacemaker at home to your husband or your wife or your parents or your siblings.
 - Surely if God commands kindness to your enemies,
 - how much more to those in your own home!
 - If you are there showing kindness and serving, you are a peacemaker!

- Children, what, but a sinful heart,
 - keeps you from making your brother's bed when you see that he is running behind!
 - What keeps you from complementing your sister when she cooks a good meal—
 - or from telling your brother what a good example he has been to you in bearing patiently with sickness or loss?
 - Start doing this stuff!
 - It won't hurt you—you will rather be blessed if you do it.
 - You will be called a son of God.
3. In Romans 14, Paul speaks of pursuing things that make for peace.
- **Ro 14:19: Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.**
 - When he says *pursue*, it shows that it is not something that just happens...
 - you have to go after these things—to work hard at them...
 - to pick up the phone and make that call...
 - to go ahead and speak that word of encouragement or supply that need or give that helping hand.
 - That is what a peacemaker does.
 - He will do good to all men.
- B. Secondly, a peacemaker will pray for peace.
1. Jesus Christ, the chief peacemaker, sets the example for us!
 - John 17 is an example of the kind of prayer that He continually prays for us!
 - He prays that we will be one with Him and with one another.
 - If you really want something in your heart as a Christian, you pray for that thing.
 - If you don't pray for peace, it shows that you don't really want it.
 2. Psalm 122 tells us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
 - That's talking to *us* about the New Jerusalem—the city of God, the church of Jesus Christ!
 - God is the one who gives us peace,
 - And peacemakers know that...
 - And because they love peace, they pray for peace.
 3. Don't you see how divided the church is today?
 - Don't you see that you are part of the problem?
 - Don't you see how much you need God's help?
 - Then get on your knees and plead that God would unify us in His truth!
 - And not that superficial peace that comes from compromise—but that kind that comes when all who earnestly seeking to do the will of God.
 - Get on your knees and pray that He would cause us to love one another!
 - People are supposed to know that we are God's children by the love we have for one another!

TRANS> What else will a peacemaker do?

- C. Thirdly, a peacemaker will quickly admit his own sin and ask forgiveness for it.
1. When you have done wrong to your brother, it is up to you to make it right!
 - a. God tells you how to do that...
 - Go to your brother and confess your fault to him and ask him to forgive you.
 - Make restitution if you need to...
 - Go out of your way to make it right...
 - And insist that he forgive you—
 - Make him answer the question, “will you forgive me?”
 - Don’t just say you are sorry he got hurt by you...
 - Ask him to forgive you for you sin against him!
 - He needs to reconcile with you.
 - b. Going to reconcile is to be an absolute priority.
 - Jesus tells you to take care of it before you even go to worship!
 - Think of it as if you are bleeding until you fix the problem!
 - Paul says that you are to remove the leaven of malice and bitterness from your heart before you come to the Lord’s Supper.
 - This is what a peacemaker does.
 2. Now I know that it is hard to admit your sin and ask forgiveness.
 - It is hard with your spouse, it is hard with your children...but do it!
 - Is this not a small price to pay to pursue peace when the Lord Jesus has paid such a high price to purchase peace for us with God?
- D. Fourthly, a peacemaker will honour those in authority
1. You are commanded to honour the king...
 - One of the best ways to promote peace in your nation is by obeying the laws of the land—
 - and by speaking respectfully of those that are in authority over you.
 - It doesn’t mean you have to endorse everything they do—
 - but like David with Saul, you must recognise that God has put them there and respect them in the office.
 2. You also promote peace by honouring the people you work for.
 - You contribute to harmony and wellbeing when you work hard and try to bring profit to those you work for.
 - In the world, there is often an adversarial relationship here...
 - It ought not to be so with you, on your part, even if your boss is unreasonable and difficult.
 3. I have already spoken about the home...
 - Wives, if you want peace in your home, honour your husband.
 - If you want disharmony and unrest, then don’t.
 - Your children will follow you and will treat you the same way you treat him.
 - But men, you must honour God if you want your wife and your children to honour you—and they will do that if you serve them like Christ serves us.
 - They will also follow your example.
 - You promote peace by honouring those in authority over you.
- E. But most of all, a peacemaker will promote peace by promoting the love of God.

1. God the Father is the God of peace—He sent Jesus to make peace...
 - Jesus Christ is the prince of peace—He came to establish a kingdom of peace and went to the cross to do that,
 - and the Holy Spirit gives the fruit of peace—He works in our hearts so that we value love and are able to love.
2. The triune God is the source of peace for this world...
 - All peace that is not rooted in Him is superficial and temporary.
 - A true peacemaker knows that!
 - He knows that Jesus is the source of peace.
 - You promote true peace by urging all men to be reconciled with the God of peace who makes all His children peacemakers.
3. You do this in many ways...
 - By speaking well of your God and telling people what He has done for you.
 - By setting forth Christ as an example of peace.
 - By showing how wonderful it is serve Him by serving Him joyfully.
 - By telling them that He will bless them if they will repent of their sins and believe on Jesus Christ.

TRANS> Do these things, and you will be called a son of God.

- And where does the strength come from to do it?
 - It comes from the Saviour who came into this world to establish a kingdom of peace.

Conclusion:

Blessed be the name of our God who first made peace with us through Jesus and now makes us peacemakers!

- Come to Him and you will be called the sons of God.
- Have you done it? Have you come to Him, asking Him to save you—to have mercy on your soul and to forgive and to change you?
- If you have not, I urge you to do so.