

Ultimate Reality – Part 7 ***I'd Rather Fight than Switch***

Matthew 5:9

*“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.”*

General Comments to Understanding this Passage

1. Note that the attention is not on the _____,
but on _____.
2. This Beatitude flew directly in the face of the Zealots
who wanted to overthrow Rome by force.
3. Peacemaking is a _____ term.
4. Peacemaking is not simply acting on _____
issues.

What is our understanding of “peace?”

1. Peacemaking, ultimately, is an _____.
2. You cannot fully pursue peace with _____
without pursuing peace with _____.
3. Bringing peace is ultimately what _____ came
to do.
4. Peace is not totally _____.
5. Peace is not _____.

If we are poor in spirit, we recognize our spiritual bankruptcy.

*If we mourn, it is because we see the grief over personal losses
as well as the suffering of humanity. We realize that sin is the
root cause of it all.*

*If we are meek, it is because we simply cannot help but be meek
and humble after such mourning and poverty of spirit. It
radically changes our view of ourselves.*

*We then will desire righteousness so much that we abandon our
hopes of achieving it and therefore are able to receive it freely
from God.*

*After that we are able to accept mercy from God and thereby
extend mercy toward others.*

*It is then that we can have a purity of heart which comes from
our seeing God.*

*Peacemaking can then become a part of our nature, because we
are behaving like our Father, making us His children.*

Thoughts to Carry Home:

- ◆ Peacemaking is a divine work.
- ◆ We are never more like God than when we pursue peace. It
is a child showing signs of their father.
- ◆ If we know God's peace, we cannot help but be
peacemakers.
- ◆ Self-assertiveness and a divisive spirit, know nothing of
peacemaking.

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The Bible and Peace

Matthew 5:9

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

Numbers 6

²² *The LORD said to Moses,* ²³ *“Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:*
²⁴ *“‘The LORD bless you
and keep you;
²⁵ the LORD make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.’”*

Proverbs 15

¹ *A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

Isaiah 9

⁶ *For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 52

⁷ *How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”*

Romans 12

¹⁷ *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.* ¹⁸ *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*

2 Corinthians 5

¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* ¹⁸ *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

Ephesians 2

¹⁴ *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this 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. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

1 Corinthians 7

¹⁵ *God has called us to live in peace.”*

2 Corinthians 13

¹¹ *Finally, brothers, good-by. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.*

Hebrews 12

¹⁴ *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*