

The Teachings of Jesus
Blessed Are the Peacemakers
Matthew 5:9

Introduction

History is full of angry disputes. Cruel inquisitions, "crusades" to overthrow rival kingdoms, and demonstrations of military might. Each group invokes the name of God. On the other hand, some consider the absence of conflict the ultimate achievement of peace and are prepared and determined to have peace at any price.

1. God is not as concerned with the act of peace as with the _____ of peace.
2. Peace is more than the absence of _____.
3. The kind of peacemaking Jesus describes is the outcome of _____ expressed to others in goodwill and genuine kindness.
4. It's easier to define peace than _____ peace.
5. Even the best of us have either _____ a friendship or been _____ by a friend.

I. Peacemakers

6. Because of evil, the world is becoming increasingly _____.
7. The peacemaker's challenge is to reflect God's _____ in an evil-dominated environment.
8. Jesus' message of peace was for all people but primarily for each _____.

9. A peacemaker sees the _____ between them and God disappear.
10. God's peacemakers are not peace _____.
11. Jesus has not called us to remain _____ or passive.
12. Peacemakers are people of _____.
13. Jesus was the most _____ figure of His time, and ours for that matter.
14. The peacemaker Christ is talking about is not a _____.
15. You can't make peace with others until you are at peace with _____.
16. The peacemaker accepts the terms of peace by surrendering unconditionally to _____.
17. Jesus didn't come to teach people how to get along with the Devil; he came to show us how to claim _____ over the Devil.
18. The goal of the peacemaker is to bring people into a peaceful _____ with God.
19. For the peacemaker, selfish anger and hatred _____.
20. Peacemakers do not retaliate against _____ with _____.

II. The Children of God

21. Jesus simply says that the children of God are, in _____, peacemakers.
22. We become the children of God by _____ in Christ for our forgiveness and hope.
23. We know that heaven is a place of _____.
24. _____ is God's strategy to bring about a lasting peace between us and God.
25. We are developing the _____ of our Father.
26. Being led by the Spirit includes bearing the _____ of the Spirit.

III. The Blessing of Peacemaking

27. Many of the letters of the New Testament _____ with the blessing of peace.
28. Peace is an _____ of God.

Conclusion

29. The followers of Jesus are called to _____ peace.
30. Peace means _____, and God is the author of peace and _____.
31. Being a peacemaker is part of _____ to God.

Making peace makes us God's child— which means we are related to each other as family. Peacemakers actively work to bring healing between sinners and God by

introducing them to Jesus. Peacemaking requires time and effort. We must pursue and produce it.

Answers

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| 1. attitude | 12. action | 23. peace |
| 2. conflict | 13. controversial | 24. Redemption |
| 3. love | 14. compromiser | 25. character |
| 4. practice | 15. yourself | 26. fruit |
| 5. abused | 16. Jesus | 27. begin |
| 6. hostile | 17. victory | 28. attribute |
| 7. nature | 18. relationship | 29. demonstrate |
| 8. person | 19. cease | 30. reconciliation |
| 9. barriers | 20. evil | 31. surrendering |
| 10. negotiators | 21. fact | |
| 11. neutral | 22. trusting | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Even the best of us have either abused a friendship or been abused by a friend. Can you think of a time where a friend abused you or you abused a friend? How can being a peacemaker help to resolve the pain and hurt of this abuse? What can you do to bring peace to this spoiled friendship?
2. Peacemakers know when and how to keep their mouth shut, know when and how to speak boldly, do not hold grudges, and do not engage in quarreling. Can you think of a time where peace was not made because of inappropriate or unwise comments (or lack of comments)? What should have been said or not said in that situation to bring peace to pass more quickly? How can you learn from this past mistake?
3. Is there someone you need to make peace with? Is there someone you're holding a grudge against and won't forgive? What can you do today to become a peacemaker with them?