

# SOTM 8 - Blessed Are the Peacemakers

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Mat 5:9 ESV "Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called **sons of God**.

- **Sons of God = carry the family trait** -- Mat 5:44-45(a) ESV But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 **so that you may be sons of your Father** who is in heaven...
- In essence "**What would Jesus do?**"

## Jesus the perfect example of peacemaker (reconciling God and Man)

- Col 1:19-22 ESV For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to **reconcile** to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by the blood of his cross**. 21 And you, **who once were alienated and hostile** in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now **reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him

## **Co labor with Jesus in reconciling people to God through sharing the gospel**

- 2Co 5:19-20 ESV that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, **God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**

## **Pursue Peace in disputable matters (these are people Jesus died for)**

- Rom 14:13-19 ESV Therefore let us not **pass judgment** on one another any longer, but rather decide **never to put a stumbling block** or hindrance in the way of a brother. 14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 **For if your brother is grieved** by what you eat, **you are no longer walking in love**. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. 16 So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. 18 Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. 19 So then **let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding**.

## **Practical help for pursuing peace**

- **LOOK WITHIN** - James 4:1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?
- **GUARD YOUR TONGUE**
  - Pro 15:1 ESV A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
  - Pro 16:28 ESV A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.
  - Pro 12:18 ESV There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- **SEEK RECONCILIATION**
  - Matthew 5:23-24: "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift."
  - Matthew 18:15: "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over."
- **ASK FOR WISDOM** Jas 3:17-18 ESV But **the wisdom from above** is first pure, then **peaceable**, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 **And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.**