

Peacemaking

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

Live at Peace

2.1 Key Principle: Living at peace is a key to our Christian witness.

2.2 The **3 dimensions of peace**:

1) **Peace with God** → This comes from trusting in **Christ**

*Colossians 1:19-20*¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

2) **Peace with Others (Unity)** → This speaks of God's **presence**...and people notice this.

*Romans 12:18*¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

3) **Peace within Yourself** → This is a by-product of being right with **God** and **others**.

*Isaiah 32:17*¹⁷ And the work of righteousness will be peace, and the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

2.3 Jesus' **reputation** depends on peace and unity in the church.

*John 13:34-35 (see also John 17:20-23)*³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

2.4 Jesus calls us to seek reconciliation **ahead** of worship.

*Matthew 5:23-24*²³ Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

2.5 Peacemaking shows that we take the **Gospel** seriously.

*Ephesians 4:1-3*¹ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2.6 Even our **lawsuits (legal disputes)** should be resolved within the church.

*1 Corinthians 6:1-8*¹ Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints?² Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?⁴ So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?⁵ I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren,⁶ but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?⁷ Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded?⁸ On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.