

Sermon Notes

Series: How to Be A Peacemaker

Date: November 8th, 2009

Title: “The Need for Peacemakers”

Text: Matthew 5:9

1) JESUS IS THE SUPREME PEACEMAKER.

- a) **When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, He accomplished a couple things.**
 - i) First, He pronounced blessings on those who were citizens in God’s kingdom.
 - (1) He told them they would be comforted and inherit the earth and see God.
 - ii) But He also explained what characterizes those kingdom citizens.
 - (1) Jesus said people in God’s kingdom are poor in spirit and meek and pure in heart.
 - iii) And then in verse 9, He said that they are peacemakers.
 - (1) So that is what should characterize us as citizens in God’s kingdom.
 - (a) That is what we are to be as disciples.
 - (b) We are to be peacemakers.
 - iv) And here is what we need to understand: Jesus was describing the disciples as peacemakers, because that’s what He is!
 - (1) And so here in Matthew 5:9, when Jesus describes His disciples as peacemakers, that’s because He is a peacemaker.
 - (a) In fact Jesus is the Supreme Peacemaker.
- b) **4 Scriptural reasons for saying that Jesus is the Supreme Peacemaker.**
 - i) Jesus is the Supreme Peacemaker because as the Word of God, He established peace at Creation. (cf. Gen 1)
 - ii) Jesus is the Supreme Peacemaker because as the Promised Seed, He came to crush the head of the serpent. (cf. Gen 3)
 - iii) Jesus is also the Supreme Peacemaker because He is the Prince of Peace spoken of in Isaiah. (cf Isa 9)
 - iv) Jesus is the Supreme Peacemaker because He is the Messenger of Peace, who announces the good news of the gospel. (cf. Isa 52)
 - (1) And we know that peace became a reality when Jesus took on our flesh, lived a sinless life, and died in our place. (cf. Col 1:19-20)
- c) **Again, before we talk about becoming peacemakers, we have to first grasp that Jesus is the Supreme Peacemaker.**
 - i) We have to grasp that Jesus’ death and resurrection from the cross is the only thing that can reconcile us back to God...
 - ii) And we have to grasp that Jesus’ death and resurrection from the cross is also the only thing that can reconcile us to each other...

2) The DISCIPLES ARE PEACEMAKERS WHO FOLLOW IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS.

a) The Sermon on the Mount is not suggesting works righteousness.

- i) ...
- ii) As Martin Luther wrote: "Christ is saying nothing in this sermon about how we become Christians, but only about the works and fruits that no one can do unless he is already a Christian."

b) What exactly does peacemaking look like?

- i) It looks a lot like it did with Jesus.
 - (1) Basically, we can be peacemakers by reconciling people to God and reconciling people to people.
- ii) We reconcile people to God by sharing the gospel...
- iii) We can be peacemakers by reconciling people to people... and that includes us. (cf. Matt 5:23)
 - (1) We need to do more than share the gospel to be peacemakers.
 - (2) We need to live out the gospel in our relationships.
 - (3) We need to follow...
 - (a) Matthew 5 and go to our brother if we know he has something against us.
 - (b) Matthew 18 and go to our brother when we have something against him.
 - (c) Philippians 4 and serve as mediators to help others to be reconciled.
 - (d) Matthew 18 and get help from the church if that's what it takes to have peace.

c) Every single believer here at New Life to be a peacemaker.

- i) Matthew 5:9 isn't just for pastors or leaders or "mature" Christians.
 - (1) We should all be peacemakers in God's kingdom.
 - (2) That means...
 - (a) We should all see conflict as an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ.
 - (b) We should all understand when it's appropriate to overlook and offense.
 - (c) We should all confess sin honestly and biblically.
 - (d) We should all learn to how to restore a brother when he offends us.
 - (e) And we should all be willing to ask the church to intervene if a conflict remains unresolved.
- ii) For the next 10 weeks or so we're going to continue to focus on being peacemakers in our relationships.
 - (1) Includes laying out step-by-step process on how to be a peacemaker in your relationships.
- iii) And I believe that if we are faithful in this, God will be honored in so many ways.
 - (1) You see, if we can be equipped as peacemakers...
 - (a) our families will know how to handle disputes.
 - (b) our members will go to each other with problems rather than letting them fester.
 - (c) our leaders will be freed up from the complaint-loop and be freed up for forward-moving ministry.
 - (d) our church will be protected from division and splits.