

The Beatitudes  
Matthew 5:1-16

The Character and Witness of the Citizens of the Kingdom

**I. Transparency – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God (5:9)**

A. This beatitude does not hold out a blessing to the peaceful, nor to those who seek peace, but to the peacemakers

1. Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker; He makes peace between God and man; He makes peace between man and man by bringing people into right relationship with God (Eph. 2:11-22)
2. After His resurrection, Jesus gave new meaning to the traditional Jewish greeting when He greeted His disciples with “Peace be with you” (Luke 24:36; John 20:19)
3. Thus, the good news of Jesus is the greatest peacemaking message
4. Paul uses this imagery of messengers racing along to tell the news (Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15)
5. Peacemaking is not restricted to only proclaiming the Gospel of Christ
6. It includes lessening tensions, seeking solutions, ensuring that communication is understood (James 1:20; Prov. 15:1)
7. A peacemaker will not confuse the important issues with his own ego-image and learn to manage himself in proportion to the intensity of the argument\

B. Peacemakers are called “sons” not “children” of God.

1. In Jewish thought, “son” bears the meaning “partaker of the character of.”
2. If you are called a “son of a dog,” that is not an reflection of your parents but of you, you partake of the character of a dog
3. “Child of God” puts more emphasis on position while “son” puts the emphasis on character
4. Thus, the reward of a peacemaker is to take on the wonderful peacemaking character of God
5. When someone at a church meeting brings “peace” amidst the quarrel, they are viewed as being spiritual; this perception should be normative in all members of

the church, not just a select few; it is part and parcel of being a “son of God.”

C. Progression of Scripture

1. 1 John 4:7-21 – set free from guilt and fear (16-19)
2. 1 Cor. 13:5 – God does not keep a record
3. Psalm 103:6-14 – removes farther than the east from the west, than we can understand
4. Psalm 130: 3-4 – if God kept a record, we could never love Him
5. Col. 2:8-15 – how God dealt with our sin at the cross
6. John 21:15-17 – Jesus forgave, restored, motivated Peter to reconciliation
7. Matthew 5:21-24 – have God minister His healing love in relationships
8. Luke 15:11-32 – prodigal son; gave up relationship and came to senses; father became the peacemaker between the brothers
9. James 3:17-18 – gives us the ministry of making peace

Summary:

The basic healing experience that God gives to us as His children because of His overwhelming love, compassion and forgiveness sets us free to love Him in response, and also one another. Now we are able to make peace between ourselves and those whom we have offended or who have offended us, and to carry out the ministry of making peace between men and God.