Blessed Are The Peacemakers

Intro: We live in a world that is war-torn; it always has been and always will be. Thus we cry out both nationally and individually: peace, peace. However, do we really know of what peace consists? Jesus spoke on the subject in the beautiful “Sermon on the Mount.” It is recorded in Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

I. WHO ARE THE PEACEMAKERS?
   A. Those who make peace by reconciling:
      1. man to man
      2. group to group
      3. nation to nation
      4. Most of all: man to God.
   B. Jesus fulfills all these categories.
      1. He is the “prince of peace”; Isa. 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
      2. He reconciles man to God; Col. 1:20-22 “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. Yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:"
   C. We are peacemakers when we imitate Christ.
      1. We cannot reconcile man to God, but we can apply principles that work.
      2. We are to preach the Gospel of peace; Rom. 10:15 “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

II. HOW DO WE PROMOTE PEACE?
   A. We proclaim the “Prince of Peace”
      1. Eph. 2:14 “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;”
      2. Jesus can make two into one.
      3. He broke down the wall between Jew and Gentile.
   B. We follow after the things that make for peace.
      1. Rom. 14:19 “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”
      2. Gentleness
      3. Forbearance
      4. Kindness
   C. We can learn not to be oversensitive.
      1. Paul would rather have made peace than to have had his own way.
         a. In the eating of meats; 1 Cor. 8:13 “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.”
         b. In his manner of life; 1 Cor. 9:20-23 “And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are
under the law; 11 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. 12 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. 13 And this I do for the gospel’s sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.”

2. We should also be mature enough not to demand our own way and our own rights.

III. WHAT IS THE PROMISED BLESSING?

A. Directly—They shall be called the “sons of God.”

1. The devil’s sons are those who follow unrighteousness; 1 John 3:10 “10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

2. Abraham’s children were those who had his faith.

3. God’s sons are those who imitate Christ; Luke 6:35 “35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”

B. Indirectly—Sons are promised eternal life if faithful.

1. We become a child:
   a. By the faith; Gal. 3:26 “26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”
   b. When we are baptized in water; Gal. 3:27 “27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

2. As children of God we are heirs:
   a. Heirs of the promise; Gal. 3:29 “29 And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
   b. Gal 4:6-7 “6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”
   c. Rom. 8:14-17 “14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

3. We thus receive all the benefits of being a child of God.

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is the only one through whom true peace can come (John 14:6, 27 “6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me…. 27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”) As His sons, we can imitate Him in His manner and teaching and receive the promised blessings.