

July 14, 2026

Peace Requires Effort

July Series: Stronger Together

Week Focus: Building Healthy Relationships

Scripture – Matthew 5:9 - *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."*

Devotional Reflection

One of the greatest misconceptions about peace is believing that it simply happens on its own. Many people hope their relationships will improve with time, assuming that if they ignore conflict long enough, everything will eventually work itself out. Yet Jesus teaches something very different in Matthew 5:9. He does not say, "Blessed are the peaceful," or "Blessed are the peacekeepers." He says, **"Blessed are the peacemakers."** A peacemaker is someone who intentionally works toward reconciliation, healing, and unity. Peace is not passive—it is pursued.

Peacemaking often requires courage because it calls us to move toward difficult conversations instead of avoiding them. It requires humility to admit when we are wrong, grace to forgive when we have been hurt, and wisdom to speak the truth in love. While avoiding conflict may provide temporary comfort, unresolved issues often grow stronger over time. Healthy relationships flourish when people are willing to address problems with honesty, compassion, and a sincere desire to restore what has been damaged.

Being a peacemaker also means choosing the health of the relationship over the desire to win an argument. Our natural tendency is often to defend ourselves, prove our point, or protect our pride. But Jesus modeled a different way. Throughout His ministry, He consistently sought restoration. He reached out to those who were broken, extended grace to those who had failed, and brought reconciliation where division existed. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect that same heart in our relationships.

This does not mean every relationship will be restored exactly as we hope. Romans 12:18 reminds us that peace is pursued "if it is possible, as far as it depends on you." We cannot force someone else to respond positively, but we can choose to respond in a way that honors God. Our responsibility is faithfulness, not control. When we pursue peace with humility and sincerity, we leave the results in God's hands.

Today, ask yourself if there is a relationship where you have been waiting for someone else to make the first move. Could God be calling you to become the peacemaker? Whether it is offering an apology, extending forgiveness, initiating an honest conversation, or simply choosing grace over resentment, remember that healthy relationships are strengthened when someone is willing to build a bridge instead of a wall. Blessed are the peacemakers because they reflect the very heart of God.

Focus for Today

Peacemaking is an intentional choice that reflects the heart of Christ.

Practice

- Pray for wisdom before entering any difficult conversation today.
 - Ask yourself if there is a relationship where God is calling you to make the first move toward peace.
 - Before speaking, consider whether your words will build a bridge or build a wall.
 - Look for one opportunity today to replace criticism with encouragement.
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Prayer

Father, thank You for showing me what true peace looks like through Jesus Christ. Help me become a peacemaker who reflects Your heart in every relationship. Give me the courage to address conflict with grace, humility, and wisdom. Remove pride, resentment, and fear from my heart, and teach me to pursue reconciliation whenever possible. May my words and actions bring healing, strengthen relationships, and honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

What relationship in your life could begin to heal if you chose to become a peacemaker instead of waiting for someone else to make the first move?