

August 30, 2026

SUNDAY REFLECTION — Making Peace

August Series: Christ-Centered Relationships

Week Focus: Making Peace

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

Devotional Reflection

This week, God has invited us to look honestly at what it means to make peace. We began by refusing to look away from relational brokenness and asking God to search our hearts before focusing only on what someone else needed to change. We considered the faithful steps He may be asking us to take, learned that genuine repentance requires more than saying “**I’m sorry,**” recognized that damaged trust may need time to rebuild, and finally learned to release the outcomes we cannot control. Each day brought us back to the same truth: **peacemaking is not passive—it is a faithful response to the grace and direction of God.**

Jesus says in Matthew 5:9, “**Blessed are the peacemakers.**” He does not merely describe people who prefer peaceful environments; He describes people who actively reflect the reconciling heart of God. Peacemakers are willing to tell the truth with grace, examine themselves with humility, take responsibility where necessary, forgive without pretending, establish wise boundaries when needed, and pursue reconciliation without trying to control another person. Making peace does not mean every relationship will return to what it once was. It means that wherever possible, **we refuse to allow pride, resentment, avoidance, or fear to determine how we respond.**

Jesus is also the reason we can live this way. We do not become peacemakers because we have mastered relationships, but because **God first made peace with us through Christ.** Sin created a separation we could not repair, yet God moved toward us and made reconciliation possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus. We do not pursue peace to earn God’s acceptance; we pursue peace because we have already received His grace. **Reconciled people become reconciling people.** Every time we choose humility over pride, repentance over excuses, grace over retaliation, and faithful obedience over control, our relationships begin to reflect something of the gospel we have received.

As followers of Christ, we should therefore measure this week by more than whether every relationship was repaired. Ask instead: **Did I respond faithfully to what God showed me?** Did I acknowledge what He revealed, allow Him to examine my heart, take the step that belonged to me, change where repentance was necessary, patiently allow trust to rebuild, and release what I could not control? If so, God has been doing something deeper than resolving one relational difficulty—**He has been forming you into a peacemaker.** The work God does within us becomes the posture we carry into every relationship around us.

Today, do not leave these lessons behind simply because the week is ending. Carry **ACKNOWLEDGE → ACT → RELEASE** into your marriage, family, friendships, workplace, church, and every relationship God entrusts to you. There will be other misunderstandings, offenses, disappointments, and opportunities for reconciliation, but you can meet them differently because Christ is continuing to transform you. Wherever God places you, keep asking, “**Lord, how can my response reflect the peace I have received through Christ?**” Making peace may begin with one situation, but becoming a peacemaker is a way of life.

Focus for Today

We make peace because through Jesus Christ, God first made peace with us.

Practice

Take a few minutes to review this week before God:

ACKNOWLEDGE — What did God help me see?

ACT — What faithful step did I take?

RELEASE — What did I need to surrender to God?

Then ask one final question:

“Lord, how are You calling me to continue living as a peacemaker?”

Write down **one relational practice** from this week that you want to carry forward.

Prayer

Father, thank You for reconciling me to Yourself through Jesus Christ. Thank You for everything You have shown me this week about making peace. Continue forming in me a heart that reflects Yours. Help me acknowledge what needs attention, examine myself with humility, take faithful steps toward repair, repent where change is needed, patiently rebuild trust, establish wise boundaries, and release what I cannot control. Keep me from merely desiring peace; make me someone who actively reflects Your peace. May my relationships reveal the grace, truth, wisdom, and reconciling love of Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

After everything God has shown me this week, what does becoming a peacemaker—not merely making peace once—look like in my everyday relationships?