

Paradox Week Eight

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Peacemakers KNOW Jesus and BRING Jesus

John 14:27 (NIV) Peace I leave with you; my **peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Peace - Shalom - "completeness, soundness, wellness and wholeness, welfare, peace - in **relationships with God and others**"

When Jesus would say Shalom people in the Jewish community would have heard this:
Wishing you the full presence, fullness, and provision of God for another person. "peace"

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

We Know JESUS (WHO BRINGS PEACE)

Romans 5:1 (NIV) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:19-22 (NLT) For God in all his fullness **was pleased to live in Christ**, and through him **God reconciled everything to himself**. He made **peace** with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. ²¹This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²²Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. **As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.**

THE WORLDS VERSION OF PEACE

1. IS ABSENCE OF CONFLICT, PEACEMAKERS BRING PEACE TO CONFLICT

James 3:17-18 (NIV) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then **peace-loving**, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Relational conflicts will happen – when they do – what is our part?

Peacemakers make the 1st move (we offer peace)

Quick to listen and slow to speak, seek understanding

2. ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL, PEACEMAKERS WON'T BE ACCEPTED BY ALL

Matthew 10:34-35 (ESV) "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

As Peacemakers KNOWS PEACE and BRINGS PEACE to others, you will look different, act different and most likely be treated different.

People will come against you because of your stance in Jesus, they may try and silence you, they may say you are no longer welcome in the group, they may “cancel” say you are “woke”

3. PEACEMAKING IS PASSIVE; PEACEMAKERS ARE ACTIVE

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV) All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation**: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ’s **ambassadors**, as though God were making **his appeal through us**. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV) Blessed are the peacemakers, **for they will be called children of God.**

We become Adopted as his children. Romans 8:15

We share an Inheritance - 1 Corinthians 3:22-23

We receive Eternal Life - John 3:16, John 17:3

For Small Group Discussion

Opening Question: If you had the power to bring total peace between two entities (people, groups, places, etc), who would you choose and why?

Main Point: Jesus is the ultimate peacemaker, bringing peace between God and man. Abiding with Christ helps us to be Christ-like to create peace in the lives of others.

Main Scripture: Matthew 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Head Questions

- How does scripture define peace according to Romans 5:1 and John 16:33?
- What is the difference between being a peacemaker and a peacekeeper?

Heart Questions

- The ministry of reconciliation is “restored wholeness” in relationship. How have you experienced the ministry of reconciliation in your own life?
- How have you helped restore others to the Lord?

Hands Questions

- Reconciliation with others takes two, how do you respond when the other person is not interested in peace? (Matthew 10:34-39)
- How do you personally, actively pursue peace with others? (Psalm 34:14)

Additional Scripture: James 3:17; John 14:27

Tips and Resources: Peacemaking is - NOT Absence of conflict, NOT passive but Active, NOT Appeasement, NOT Avoidance.



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