

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

(Matthew 5:9)

1. Peace-making is the mark of God's children

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

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

¹⁴*For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.* (Ephesians 2:14-16)

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. (John 1:12)

2. Peace-making in practice

- **Seek peace between man and God**

¹⁸*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself through Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We 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.* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

- **Seek peace in the family of God**

¹*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with each other in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

- **but don't compromise on your commitment to the faith**

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. (Jude v3)

- **Seek peace with all people**

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:18)

⁴⁴*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ... ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others?* (Matthew 5:44-47)

- **but it may not be possible**

³⁴*Do not suppose I have come to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law – ³⁶a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”* (Matthew 10:34-36)