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“BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS”

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The word translated “blessed” in the beatitudes encompasses the idea of being praised and involves the nature of that which is the highest good. What does it mean to be a peacemaker? Peace is not the elimination of conflict, but the pursuit of harmony between brethren (Ephesians 4:2-3). If we are to be peacemakers, we must be like Christ, breaking down walls that separate us (Ephesians 2:14-18). How do we do this?

- First, we must remove all that stands between those who are estranged (Ephesians 2:14-16)
- Then, we must think less of ourselves and more of others and the church (Ephesians 2:16; Philippians 2:2-8, 19-21)
- Third, we must not be guilty of choosing sides (Ephesians 2:17; Romans 12:16-21)
- Lastly we must only use the Bible to resolve relationship problems (Ephesians 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Who were examples of “peacemakers” in the Bible? Jesus, while dying on the cross proved to be a peacemaker by “creating in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace.” (Ephesians 2:15). Also, Paul, while confronting Jewish hypocrisy, strove to bring peace and harmony between Jewish and Gentile Christians (Galatians 2:11-21).

What is in it for the peacemakers? Let’s face it, being a peacemaker is not easy and sometimes doesn’t work! If we become peacemakers, we:

- Are following the example of Christ (Colossians 1:20)
- Are “called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9)
- Following in the footsteps of the Father, Who is the “God of peace” (Romans 15:33)