



BUILT to Last

Your strength is about God in you, not the **threats** around you.

“These words I speak to you are not incidental additions to your life, homeowner improvements to your standard of living. They are foundational words, words to build a life on. If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock. Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock... Matthew 7:24-27(MSG)

- The difficulties around us expose the **weakness** within us.

The Definition is:

“**Blessed**” - (1) A different attitude because of God’s favor in our lives or (2) A changed mindset that comes from God’s blessings in our lives.

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

The people around us need to experience God’s **peace** within us.

- Peace is a **heart** issue.

Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. James 4:1 (MSG)

What peacemaking is not:

- Not **avoiding** conflict.
- Not **appeasing** others.
- Not winning an **argument**.

- Why we enter conflict will reflect **how** we **act** in conflict.

Definition: Peacemaker - Someone who enters conflict to reconcile people to God and to one another.

A peacemaker is a person that chooses to engage in relational conflict with **health** and **purpose from a Gospel perspective**.

- The primary purpose of a peacemaker in conflict is **reconciliation**.

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

- When we focus on resolution, we tend to try to fix the **person** rather than the problem.

God has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships. God was in Christ restoring his relationship with humanity. He didn’t hold people’s faults against them, and he has given us this message of restored relationships to tell others. We are Christ’s representatives... We beg you on behalf of Christ to become reunited with God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (GWT)

We first seek to reconcile people to **God**.

We **promote** reconciliation with others.

You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27 (NLT)

To be peacemakers:

- We need peace **with God** to have the peace of God.

...since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Romans 5:1 (NLT)

²⁷ I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid. John 14:27 (NLT)

When we’re at peace with God within, what happens around us doesn’t **upset** us.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts...Colossians 3:15 (NLT)

- Peace with God changes how we **address** conflict.

Those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness. James 3:18 (NLT)

The way we plant peace is:

- I make peace my responsibility and **priority**.

“If you’re standing before the altar in the Temple, giving an offering to God, and you suddenly remember someone has something against you, leave your offering there beside the altar. **Go at once** and **first be reconciled** to that person. Then come and offer your gift to God.” Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT)

- I seek to **understand** before seeking to be understood.

...be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. James 1:19 (NLT)

- I deal with my **fear**.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear... 1 John 4:18 (NIV)

We’ll never seek to resolve conflict without **love**.

- I speak the **truth** tactfully with **love**.

...speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ... Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)

Don’t use truth as a **club** to beat people with.

“Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Proverbs 12:18 (NIV)

Do not use harmful words, but only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide what is needed... Ephesians 4:29 (TEV)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions for Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why is this beatitude difficult for our natural man to accept?
- In your own words, why does the world need God’s peace?
- Why is peace a heart issue?
- Talk about the definition of peacemaker and why is that needed in today’s culture?
- Why is the primary purpose of a peacemaker reconciliation?
- Why do we need to have peace with God to have the peace of God?
- Do you agree that when we have peace with God within, what happens around us doesn’t upset us? Explain.
- How do we make peace our personal responsibility and priority?
- How do we seek to understand before being understood?
- How does our fear interfere with making peace?
- How do we use the truth as a club to beat people with?
- Why does peace make us children of God?

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