

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 56: BIBLICAL PEACEMAKING

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. – Colossians 3:12-13

Main Idea: God calls Christians to reflect the image and character of God by being peacemakers in a broken world.

I. A Biblical View of Peace and Conflict

- A. Shalom is the original position (Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25)
- B. The enemy of peace (Genesis 3:1; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Timothy 2:25-26; 1 Timothy 4:1-3; Acts 5:3)

II. God's Solution - The Gospel of Peace

- A. What is the gospel of peace?
- B. Why are Christians to be peacemakers?
 - 1. God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31)
 - 2. Peacemaking is rooted in the Gospel message (Isaiah 9:6; Acts 10:36; Ephesians 2:14)
 - 3. Our forgiven debt (Matthew 18: 32-33; Colossians 3:13; Romans 5:7-8; Romans 5:1-2)
 - 4. God loves and commands reconciliation (Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:24)
 - 5. Our identify: His children; His imitators (John 14:15; Luke 6:35; Ephesians 5:1; 4:32; James 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Romans 12:17-21)
 - 6. Our joy and freedom (Proverbs 14:30; Psalm 16:11; Hebrews 12:14-15)

III. Peacemaking through Repentance, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation

- A. Christ-centered, cross-based repentance and forgiveness – the keys to reconciliation
- B. Misconceptions about forgiveness
 - 1. Forgiveness is not a feeling (Isaiah 43:25)
 - 2. Forgiveness is not forgetting (Psalm. 139:14; Isaiah 43:25)
 - 3. Forgiveness is not excusing or justifying sin (Proverbs 28: 13; 1 John 1:8-10)

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4. Forgiveness is not always without consequences (Numbers 14:20-23; Deuteronomy 32:48-52; Galatians 6:7)
5. Forgiveness is not always given without confession and repentance (Ephesian 4:31-32; Luke 17:3-4; 1 John 1:9)

C. The nature of forgiveness

1. Etymology (*Aphemi*: Matthew 6:12, 18:27, 32; *Charizomai*: Luke 7:42-43; 2 Corinthians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
2. Forgiveness is a decision, an act of will, a commitment (Proverbs 17:9; Psalm 32:1; 130:3-4; 1 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 4:26 – 27)
3. Forgiveness is supernatural (Romans 8:7; Galatians 5:19-21; 5:22)
4. Forgiveness is imitating the love of God (Acts 7:59-60; Galatians 5:16)

IV. Practice of Reconciliation - Replacement Principle

- A. By prayer, depending on God's power (Luke 6:28; Hebrews 4:16)
- B. By remembering God's forgiveness (Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24-25; Colossians 1:19-20)
- C. In thought (Luke 6:27-28; Philippians 4:8)
- D. In word (2 Corinthians 2:7)
- E. In deed (1 John 3:18)
- F. By practice (Matthew 18:21-35; Hebrews 12:11)

V. The Reward of Peacemaking

- A. Holiness (Hebrews 12:14)
- B. Being children of God (Luke 6:35; Matthew 5:9)
- C. A foretaste of deliverance, Shalom restored (Revelation 21:5)