

Matthew 5:9
Real Peacemakers

Introduction:

It's interesting that our Lord uses the imagery of sheep to describe His people and on the other hand He refers to the wolf as those outside His sheepfold who desires to do harm to His sheep. The sheep is a peaceable creature. Thomas Watson puts it, "they must be lions for courage, yet lambs for peaceableness." For the Christian to make peace with others, they must be peaceable spirits themselves." Thomas Watson again puts it, "Christians must be peaceable-minded. This peaceableness of spirit is the beauty of a saint. It is a jewel of great price." Perhaps there is no more enjoyable fellowship in the church as when the body of Christ enjoys peace among its members. "Live in peace with one another" I Thess. 5:13.

I. The Source of Peace

A. The Jews anticipated peace by might – John 6:15; 18:36

1. Why are there wars and rumors of wars?
2. False prophets cry "peace" – Eze. 13:10,16

B. What is a true peacemaker?

1. They are those who receive the gospel and receive a new heart – **Turn To: Ephesians 2:13-18**

C. What a peacemaker is not:

1. Not a natural disposition to be "easy going"
2. Not peace at any cost (William Hendriksen) Matt. 11:27-30
3. Not an Appeaser

II. The Means of Peace

A They must be entirely delivered from self and self-interest

B. They must be Biblically objective – John 5:30; 7:18

C. Sermons and Session meetings

1. Slow to speak – Jam. 1:5; 3:17 (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)
2. Quick to hear – Prov. 29:20; Eccl. 5:2; Prov. 17:27-28
3. Slow to anger – Eph. 5:26,27 (Husbands and wives – Barnhouse)

D. Dealing with our enemies

1. Individuals, not nations – Note. Matt. 5:38-44
2. Live in peace, if possible – Rom. 12:17-21

E. Follow the Prince of Peace

1. The gospel of Christ brings a sword – Turn To: Matthew 10:32-37
2. The gospel of within our household – Covenant children – I Cor. 7:14
 - 1) ***Our children are not unclean***
 - 2) ***Our children do possess a holiness that is external***
 - 3) ***When our children genuinely believe the gospel of Christ they are eternally secure.***
 - 4) ***Our children may rebel and leave but eventually come back or never come back. (Covenant-breakers)***
 - 5) ***Ordinarily God's elect come out of His Covenant people but God is sovereign and at times goes outside the circle of His covenant to become a Father to the fatherless – (Psalm 68:5; 82:3; 109:9; 146:9)***

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