

**Daily Reflection: 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020** Kevin Carlson

**The Beatitudes - *Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.* - Matthew 5:8**



On being a Peacemaker- another attribute and character trait in the Christian's quiver. Another aspect of the new nature, renewed by God's Holy Spirit, within our personhood. We may note in this instance, we are not referred to as, 'Peaceable' (God also calls us thus to be 1 Cor 7:15; Heb 12:14) but to be a 'Peacemaker'. A maker of peace, working towards peace where discord, antagonism and division reigns.

Peacemakers here are given the tag and called, Children of God (or Sons of God)- and the meaning indicates that Peacemakers are doing a specific work and activity of God and in line with God's own work on earth. God is, as we understand Him to be within the Scriptures, chiefly about reconciliation. Indeed we can say God is the author of reconciliation. He is the first of the first in peacemaking! **"His (Christ) purpose (before the creation of the world, before sin and separation even occurred Eph 1:4) was to create in himself one new humanity (Jew and Gentile) out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross....He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit".** (Eph 2:11-22)



Jesus is announced before his birth as, **"The Prince of Peace"** (Isaiah 9:6)

On being a Peacemaker, firstly, is to seek and pursue others to be reconciled unto God through Christ. What a great work! Daunting perhaps? Nevertheless all of us who have entered legitimately into the Kingdom of God have been called to this task. That is why we are called **Blessed** and referred to as, **The children of God.** Doing the work and following in the footsteps of Christ the Lord. We are in the Kingdom, seeking the lost, so they too may enter the same Kingdom of God.

Peacemaker has a broader scope in this seventh Beatitude- A worthy note is to recognise the preceding Beatitudes: the Pure in heart; and further back lies the meek and the seekers of righteousness and the merciful....all building up to the work of Peacemaker. It is just one thing to seek others to be reconciled unto God but also reconciled to one another. Families, neighbours, our Church family....where and when discord arises.

How can we make a difference? Prayer (asking for God's help) **"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer."** (1 Peter 3:12) ; and Godly wisdom,

(When to remain passive and when to be active; when to seek help and counsel from another....) **"Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other."** (Ps 85:10)

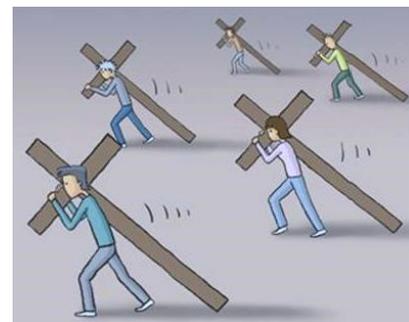
How can we be part of a solution and not succumb to becoming part of the problem- gossip, a critical spirit, mob and party spirit all dressed up in respectability! **"Turn from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it."** (Ps 34:14; 1 Pet 3:11)

How can I make a difference? How can I, even me, be a Peacemaker? How can I be both 'Peaceable' and a 'Peacemaker'? A cause for some reflection.....

***Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.***

**HYMN:** I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.  
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus, my cross I'll carry till I see Jesus,  
My cross I'll carry till I see Jesus, no turning back, I'll follow him."

sung by Jadon Lavik - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u15rLnL9Gc>



**PRAYER:** My gracious Father, I thank you for this new day given to me. I give you thanks for your grace and provision both temporal and earthly and eternal and spiritual. You have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in Christ. You have bestowed upon me gifts of endowment so that I will be equipped to serve in and through your church. You have given me new life in a new nature. Help me now as I discover being this new creation and how I may discover ways to serve your purposes and my fellow man. Create the pathway now into this new day through Christ my Lord.....AMEN