

Empire Church of the Brethren

## *Sunday Service Sermons*

**20 August 2023**

The Children of God

We were told in Seminary that we would experience whatever we preached on.  
So enough of sin.

I think you got the idea of that series on things that come between us and God.  
Things that Satan can use to inhibit our relationship with God our Father.

Text: "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God".

Do you remember that I wonder if the beatitudes are progressive.

A proper attitude before God will show us that we are poor in spirit and we do mourn for a better relationship with God.

We must come before God meekly and hunger for more of him.

We must see others with an attitude of mercy and only the pure in heart will see God.

When all of this is in order then we will be able to be peacemakers on behalf of God.

For when all the above is in place we will be his people and he will be our God and peace will be at the front of our desires.

Our God is a God of peace so the making of peace is foremost in his agenda.

As far as it depends on you . . . .?

Be at peace with one another.

They will know that we are a child of God when we make peace with him, ourselves and others.

A peacemaker is a person who, by their own character, example, and testimony is a reconciling influence in the world.

We must be careful or we can honor God with our lips when our hearts are far from him.

Satan will do his best to help us be sowers of discord, the fomenters of strife.

Jesus wants us to be peace makers because then we are acting like God's children.

The beatitudes are describing seven facets of one character.

Nothing describes more clearly the character of Christ and the nature of God than the effort to make peace.

Why are peacemakers so desperately needed in our time?

Because the enemy is putting enmity and strife before us on every hand.

Divide and conquer.

God confused the language of people to keep them from uniting against him.

Satan is dividing the family, nations and the church.

Division takes away power.

Enmity exists between man and God.

It began in the garden when sin separated mankind from God.

There are three classifications of our enemies.

Enemies by virtue of certain relationships that exist, enemies because of the acts and words of our lives, and enemies according to the natural order.

There are two natures in each of us.

It is between our soul and our heart.

Remember we have two beasts in us and the one who thrives is the one we feed?

I have found this to be very true.

And it takes time, it is not instant.

Satan tells us we will lose control if we give our life to God when it is the exact opposite in actuality.

Being God's person makes straight the path before us.

Not only is the battle in us it is also between us.

Enmity exists between people.  
People glare at and fight one another as individuals.  
Group rises up against group, race hates race, and nations make war against one another.  
There is a great need for peacemakers at every level of life.  
We need peacemakers because enmity and strife are so costly.  
On the individual level it costs you your life.  
“Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.”  
Enmity against God is the source of all wretchedness.  
A personality divided against itself is unhappy and ineffective, and it means eternal death in the end.  
It has great cost between people.  
Hatred works havoc to the hated and more seriously damages the one who hates.  
Hate can nullify all the work done in the name of Jesus.  
How infinite is the cost of hatred between nations.  
No good can come out of war, and its cost is beyond calculation.  
Peacemakers are needed in all areas.  
Peacemaking all begins with one person taking the initiative.  
All things are of God who reconciled us to himself through Christ.  
God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.  
God took the initiative that we might be at peace in him.  
Christ is the great peacemaker in our hearts, because he is our peace.  
He keeps in perfect peace those whose hearts steadfastly trust God.  
What does a peacemaker look like?  
First let's look at what they are not.  
They are not passive bystanders who, in a cowardly fashion, leave things alone or give in to wrong and injustice.  
Peacemaking does not necessarily mean one will live a quiet life.  
Peacemakers are often activists.  
Peacemakers are not meddlers.  
Peacemaking stops the conflict before it starts.  
Peacemakers are not indifferent.  
Peacemakers are not compromisers.  
Now let's look at what they are.  
They are those whose work is grounded in the reconciling work of Christ.  
For Jesus is the prince of peace.  
He brought glory to God in the highest and on earth peace.  
He lived as a man of peace.  
He spoke of his own peace which he would freely give to those who followed him and believed in him.  
He went to the cross to pay the price for peace.  
The chastisement of our peace was upon him.  
He made peace through his blood on the cross.  
Peacemakers are those whose work stems out of an experience whereby the peace of God, in Christ, has become effective in their own lives.  
Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
No person can be a peacemaker, either between God and man or between man and man unless they are first at peace with God himself.  
Peacemakers are those whose work finds its imperative and authority in a divine commission.  
God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.  
We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.  
For every Christian peace should be our business.  
Peacemakers are those whose lives exhibit, in some measure at least, the character and likeness of God whose children we are.  
Peacemaking is well blessed.

The first blessing is being called children of God.

Not only are the peacemakers children of God but they are recognized as such.

Recognized as such by God himself.

Behold what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called the children of God.

Who calls the peacemakers children of God, God does.

Peacemakers realize in their own hearts that they are children of God when, by the Spirit's leadership, they are used by him to lead another into peace with God.

A pastor was seeking to win a thirteen-year-old girl to Christ in her home when her mother interfered.

The pastor asked the mother, "Are you a Christian? Well, she said, I have a hope."

She had five children.

Not one of them was a Christian.

All were in danger of hell, while she mouthed pious phrases.

How could she have known?

Had she tried to be a peacemaker between any one of her children and God, and had she succeeded, she could have said, "Now we are children of God. And it is not yet made manifest what we shall be."

Before we can be anything in Christ we must be surrendered to him.

Then he will make us children of God and God will use us to glorify himself and bring the kingdom of God to earth as it is in heaven.