

Devotional 7: The Peacemakers

Reconciliation and Unity

Foundational Text

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

— Matthew 5:9

What the Text Reveals

The Greek *eirenopoioi* appears only here in the entire New Testament. Jesus coins a compound word: *eirene* (peace) + *poieo* (to make, to create, to do). Peacemakers are not passive people who avoid conflict; they are active reconcilers who build bridges where walls divide, who create peace where hostility reigns, who do the costly work of bringing separated parties together.

The reward is the highest relational identity available: “they will be called children of God.” Not servants. Not followers. Not disciples. Children—bearing the family resemblance of the Father whose defining act in human history was reconciliation through the cross. Peacemakers look like God because God is the ultimate Peacemaker.

This beatitude requires both the preceding inner transformation (Beatitudes 1–6) and the willingness to engage outwardly with fractured relationships and broken communities. Those who have received mercy (Beatitude 5) and whose hearts have been purified (Beatitude 6) are now equipped to do what God has done for them: reconcile the estranged.

Biblical Architecture

2 Corinthians 5:18–19 establishes the theological foundation: “God... reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.” Peacemaking is not optional Christian service; it is the ministry that defines those who have been reconciled to God. We are reconciled reconcilers.

Ephesians 2:14–16 describes what Christ accomplished: “He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace.” The cross does not merely forgive individuals; it tears down walls between groups—racial, ethnic, economic, cultural. Revival that does not tear down walls is not reflecting the cross.

Colossians 1:20 provides the cosmic scope: God’s purpose is “through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” Peacemaking is not small work. It participates in God’s cosmic reconciliation project. Every restored marriage, every racial wall torn down, every denomination that lays aside pride for unity reflects the cross’s reconciling power.

Core Thesis

Revival breaks down walls—racial, economic, denominational, political. Peacemakers do not ignore justice or tolerate sin; they pursue reconciliation where broken relationships can be restored to God’s design. Revival spreads when believers become ambassadors of reconciliation, mirroring Christ who made peace through His blood.

Revival Connection: Church and Community Impact

Peacemaking connects directly to Week 4’s evangelism emphasis. Sharing the gospel IS the ultimate peacemaking because it reconciles humanity to God—the original breach that all other broken relationships reflect. Evangelism with “brokenhearted boldness” is peacemaking at its most fundamental level: bringing estranged humans back to their Creator.

But peacemaking also operates within the church and community circles. Revival history demonstrates that genuine awakening produces reconciliation across divisions that seemed permanent. During the Azusa Street Revival, Black and White worshippers shared the same altar in 1906 Los Angeles—a reconciliation so radical that critics attacked it as much for its racial integration as for its spiritual claims. The East African Revival produced confession and reconciliation between tribal groups that had been enemies for generations.

Peacemaking does not mean peace at any price. It does not mean ignoring sin or abandoning truth. Jesus, the ultimate Peacemaker, spoke the hardest truths in Scripture. But He spoke them in love, with tears, for the purpose of restoration rather than condemnation. Peacemakers pursue truth and reconciliation together—never sacrificing one for the other.

Strategic Question

What relationship in my life needs reconciliation that I have been avoiding? Where is God calling me to build a bridge rather than maintain a wall?

Closing Prayer

Prince of Peace, make us peacemakers. Where there is division, send us as reconcilers. Where there is hostility, let us extend Your love. Give us courage to pursue unity without

compromising truth, and truth without destroying relationships. Let revival tear down walls and build bridges for Your glory. Make us look like You—children who bear the family resemblance of the Father who reconciled the world to Himself through the cross. Send us into every fracture—in families, churches, communities, and nations—as agents of Your peace. Amen.

Scripture Treasury

“God... reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

— **2 Corinthians 5:18**

“He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

— **Ephesians 2:14**

“Through him to reconcile to himself all things... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

— **Colossians 1:20**

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

— **Romans 12:18**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

— **Ephesians 4:3**