

Reverend Dr. Major A Stewart





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## Restoring Broken Relationships (Matthew 5:9)

Matthew 5:1-9 (NIV2011)

- Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,
- 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

- 3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- 7 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
- 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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Healthy relationships are essential for 'blessed living.'
To maintain and restore relationships,
we must be peacemakers. This is the result of being
pure in heart (At 5:8), which we talked
about in the last lesson. People who are pure in heart
cannot stand to see broken relationships
and will do everything they can to restore them. This
is why the beatitude that follows being
pure in heart is about restoring relationships (5:9).
Write it below:



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Fewthings make us as much like Jesus as being peacemakers. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) God is also called the God of peace (Rom. 15:55). God is the ultimate

Peacemaker, and if we are His children, we will be peacemakers, too. Being a peacemaker who restores broken relationships has four requirements ...

1. Analyze the word peace makers

Obviously, the word peacemakers is made up of two words. The word translated peace (eirēnē, i-ray/-nay) describes harmonious relationships between people, as well as aarmonious relationship with God. The word translated makers (poieō, poy-eh/-oh) denotes action. Therefore, we are to take the initiative in restoring

relationships. If we are peacemakers, we will obey what

command in Hebrews 12:14a?

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The Bible teaches being a peacemaker begins with a right relationship with God. There are two types of peace in our relationships—peace with God and peace with people. To have peace with people we must first have peace with God, because He is the Source of true peace. So, if we want to be called God's children, we need to remember what fact found in 1 Corinthians 14:33a? We can only have peace with God through His Son lesus Christ. Christ came to reconcile the world to God and make peace by shedding His blood on the cross (Col. 1:20). To be at peacewith God, we must take all the steps Jesus reveals in the previous beatitudes. Only when our relationship with God is right can we be peacemakers. "Blessed living" requires remembering emembering what fact found in 2 Corinthians 5:18c?



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#### 2. Accept the responsibility of being a peacemaker

For Christians, being peacemakers is not a suggestion; it is a command. Being a peacemaker involves letting people know they can have peace with God (Rom. 5:1) through Christ. We should always be prepared to be spiritual peacemakers by being ready to share our faith (1 Pet. 3:15b). We should at least be able to share and explain the Roman Road to salvation (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; & 10:9–10). However, our witness will never be effective unless we are also peacemakers in all our human relationships. This includes obeying what command in Romans 12:18? There are some people who don't want peace, but that doesn't change the fact we are to be peacemakers and make every effort to restore relationships. This includes relationships with parents, a spouse, children, siblings, co-workers, fellow students—everyone. There is always a sacrifice to make if we accept the responsibility of being a peacemaker. The first thing we must sacrifice is our pride. We must be willing to say the two hardest words in the English language, "I'm sorry." Or, it might require saying the three hardest words, "I was wrong." To be peacemakers, we must let go of our pride because of what truth found in Proverbs 13:10a?





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Your paragraph text

This means the root of all strife, or quarrels, is pride. Therefore, to heal broken relationships, we must be willing to sacrifice our pride.

To be a peacemaker and help restore broken relationships, analyze the word peacemakers, accept the responsibility of being a peacemaker, and ...

- 3. Apply biblical communication principles The first step in peacemaking, or restoring broken relationships, is good communication. Good communication requires following three basic principles ...
- a. Listen without interrupting or correcting. For example, if someone gets a date, place, or fact wrong, that's OK. In restoring any broken relationship, it is essential that each person feels free to express his or her feelings and opinions without being interrupted or corrected. The most important thing is not getting all the facts or details right, but letting people express their feelings without interruption or correction. Basically, this is obeying what command in James 1:19b?





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Peacemaking always begins with listening. We must listen without interrupting or correcting because that is how we earn the right to be heard.

b. Don't begin sentences with the word "you." For example, don't say "You always...." Or, "You never...." When you begin a sentence with the word "you," it is a personal attack. Don't attack; instead, express how you feel. Make such statements as: "I feel like you never want to talk to me," or "I feel like you resent me," etc. Attack the problem, not the person. To do that, remember what truth found in Proverbs 12:18?





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Look for the hurt behind the words. Instead of correcting or trying to defend yourself, concentrate on the hurt. When you recognize the hurt behind the words, express your concern and compassion by saying something like, 'I didn't realize how I hurt you: I'm sorry.' When you see the hurt, remember what relationship principle found in Proverbs 16:24?





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To be peacemakers who restore broken relationships, analyze the word peacemakers, accept the responsibility of being a peacemaker, apply biblical communication principles, and ...

4. Anticipate the rewards

Why should we be peacemakers? Because of the rewards! There are at least three ...





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# 4. Anticipate the rewards Why should we be peacemakers? Because of the rewards! There are at least three ... Reward

#1. We will be blessed (Mt 5:9). This means we will have a holy happiness. It really doesn't matter how much money we make, how well our careers are progressing, or whatever else in our lives that may be going great. If our relationships are bad, nothing in life can make us truly happy.

#### Reward

#2: We will demonstrate godly traits. That's why Jesus said we will be called sons, or children, of God. One of the outstanding family traits of God's children is they always try to be peacemakers. A person who is always divisive, quarrelsome, contentious, or causing conflict is either not a Christian or is backslidden. We are not to judge a person's heart, but we can be "fruit inspectors" because of what words of Jesus in Matthew 7:20?

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#### Reward #3

We will reap a wonderful harvest. When we are right with God, we always want to do the right thing by bringing peace to all relationships. Peacemaking can be difficult, timeconsuming work. However, peacemakers are never selfish and seek peace at great personal cost. Peacemakers don't insist on their own way. Yet, it's worth it all to be a peacemaker because of what promîse în James 3:48?



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We must remember peacemaking is like a farmer who understands when he plants seed, he is actually sowing a harvest. One of the rewards of being a peacemaker is the seeds of peace we plant will reap a harvest of righteousness. The word righteousness refers to a right relationship with God and with people.



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TO BE A PEACEMAKER AND **RESTORE BROKEN** RELATIONSHIPS, ANALYZE THE WORD PEACEMAKERS, ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING A PEACEMAKER, APPLY BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLES, AND ANTICIPATE THE REWARDS.

