

Making Peace in a Hostile World



**Blessed are the peacemakers
for they shall be called the
sons of God. Matt. 5:9**



The *BIG* problem with
this beatitude.



Jesus' audience wanted
a warrior priest, not
a capitulating
“peacenick.”



15 When Jesus saw that they were ready to force him to be their king, he slipped away into the hills by himself. Jn. 5:15 NLT



18The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, **19**and he sent them to the Lord to ask him,



“Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”

Luke 7:18-19 NLT



**No! He was not the messiah
they were expecting.**

**Shouldn't the Lion of Judah
have claws and fangs?**



As a consequence, the obligations for his followers were the opposite of what they had anticipated!



What about us?



Peace-maker?



Peace-maker?
Not one who capitulates.



Peace-maker?

Not one who capitulates.

Not one who compromises.



Peace-maker?

Not one who capitulates.

Not one who compromises.

A promoter of reconciliation
between hostile parties.



1⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;



19 that is, in Christ God was
reconciling the world to
himself, . . . entrusting to us
the message of reconciliation.



20 Therefore, we are
ambassadors for Christ, God
making His appeal through us.
We implore you on behalf of
Christ, be reconciled to God.

2 Cor. 5:18-20



**Culture warriors?
Freedom fighters?**



**Culture warriors?
Freedom fighters?**

Ambassadors and diplomats?



**Culture warriors?
Freedom fighters?**

**Ambassadors and diplomats?
Prince of Peace or war?**



With whom?



With whom?
First with Christians
Then others



**What are the
impediments to a
peacemaker
mentality?**



Be completely humble, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Eph. 4:2



13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meeekness of wisdom. . . .



17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. **18** And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.



**We approach this table
because Jesus joyously, not
begrudgingly, chose to lay
down His rights in order to
reconcile us God.**

