

Bridge builders and Barrier Breakers

Sermon Scripture: Matt. 5:9

Worship Scripture: Eph. 2:11-22

Are you a trouble maker???? Course not!!!

Do you know people who are trouble makers????---Well --yeh sure.....

Wherever they go they tend to stir up trouble. If there is already friction----they increase it. They divide people----make a big deal out of little disagreements.

They separate people----If there are no problems----they try to create them----makes them feel good----important. They are either involved in quarrels or they cause them.

Are you a trouble maker???

Story----lady always stirring up trouble---spouting off ---she died ----about to start funeral----great clap of thunder----shook the whole building----Preacher looked up----“Well she arrived”

Are you a peace maker??? Person who attempts to bring people together----even though there are differences--help them to see what ties us together.

(it is Jesus Christ which brings us together-----not that we always agree)

People who are stirring up peace----they are building bridges that bring people together----they break down barriers that divide people.

The one who divides people is doing the devil's work----the one who unites people is doing God's work.

Not just a peace lover----one who just sits there----avoids confrontation at any cost----not willing to take any action---love peace---but unwilling to take action----let troubles pile up for the future.

Refuse to face situation and take action.

Peace making is not an evasion of issues----there is a right and wrong time for this----but for some the right time never comes.

It is not just a passive acceptance of things because we are afraid of the trouble of doing something about them.

Peace---MAKER---goes to work building bridges and breaking barriers.

Rom 12:18----“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

This is a peacemaker----someone working at peace.

Peace----Greek----not just absence of evil----but seeking the best.

Peacemaker----active----facing issues---willing to work---struggle----to make peace----lower tensions----willing to work at making peace----within self----and others.

We use the phrases-----you can tell that's the son or daughter of....."you sure see his dad in him-----mother's nose----same description should apply to Christians-----boy you can sure see God in them-----act's just like Jesus"

How would you like to be remembered??? What kind of words on your tombstone???
Here lies trouble maker John??

Here lies a child of God----a maker of peace and bringer of love.

Smith and Jones were "on the outs" over a very trivial matter. This deeply concerned Deacon Brown, so he prayed that he might be a peacemaker. He went to see Smith and asked, "What do you think of Jones?" "He's the meanest crank in the neighborhood!" "But," said Deacon Brown, "you have to admit that he's very kind to his family." "Oh, sure, he's kind to his family all right; no one can deny that." The next day Deacon Brown went to Jones and inquired, "Do you know what Smith said about you?" "No, but I can imagine how that scamp would lie about me!" "This may surprise you, but he said you're very kind to your family." "What! Did Smith say that?" "Yes, he did." "Well, if you hadn't told me, I wouldn't believe it." "What do you think of Smith?" asked Deacon Brown. "Truthfully, I believe he's a lowdown scalawag." But said Deacon Brown "you have to admit that he's very honest in business." "Yes, there's no getting around that; in business he's a man you can trust." The next day Brother Brown called on Smith again. "You know what Jones said about you? He claims you're a fellow that really can be trusted in business, and that you're scrupulously honest." "You mean it?" "Yes, I do," said Brown. "Well of all things," replied Smith with a happy smile. The next Sunday the former "enemies" nodded to each other. Deacon Brown continued his "meddling" until the next annual business meeting of the church when Smith and Jones shook hands and finally voted on the same side!

But----let me warn you----the job of peacemaker----of a mediator can be costly----police officers dislike domestic quarrels----husband and wife fighting----not unusual for mediator to get shot.

When a relationship has been ripped----torn apart----we are called to help bring about reconciliation----even though many times----one or both parties will end up hating us.

But a peacemaker is willing to take that risk----Abraham Lincoln "Die when I may, I would like it to be said of me, that I always pulled up a weed and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

We all have a reputation----either of trouble maker----or peacemaker----which are you???

There is a qualification for being a peacemaker-----you must first make peace within yourself.

When you can't live with yourself----you will project that inner tension to others----and be a trouble maker---not a peace maker. Peacemakers are at peace with themselves----before we can live at peace with others---must have peace within us.

If you have trouble getting along with people----look within----at yourself

We must allow the restoring Power of Love to come into our lives----when love comes in----it brings peace----we don't pass by on the other side of the road.

Each one of you can be a peacemaker----but only when you get your own life together-----and you can do this--once you really make peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Greatest peacemaker of all time is Jesus Christ.

Jesus willing to pay the price of building bridges----that's what He did for you and for me----for all of mankind---build a bridge from mankind to God.

“Prince of Peace.”

He was and is a barrier breaker-----in the temple was many courts---court of gentiles----women----Priests-----then Holy of Holies-----Jesus tore down the curtain---broke down the barriers---brought peace----forgiveness of sins.

He didn't just like to see peace between man and God-----he did something about it.

Before He started---he knew the price---He would be crucified---but He did it!

Willing to give of Himself---Worship Scripture-----“He is our peace”

New Living God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.

Message

“You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

We are either trying to build up people and organizations or tear them down. This is not a passive existence, it is working at bringing about good---putting forth effort to bring peace, joy and love.

Jesus did this for you----the question is----are you willing to do it for Him??