

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**PEACEMAKING**

**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

A. **DISCUSS: WHY A STUDY ON PEACEMAKING IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

**2. PEACEMAKERS**

A. **DISCUSS: IS PEACEMAKING IS SOMETHING WE ARE OFTEN ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH IN OUR OWN STRENGTH?**

1. **PLEASE REMEMBER... WE HAVE THE POWER AND STRENGTH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

B. **PEACEMAKERS ARE PEOPLE WHO BREATHE GRACE.**

1. **THEY DRAW CONTINUALLY ON THE GOODNESS AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST, AND THEN THEY BRING HIS LOVE, MERCY, FORGIVENESS, STRENGTH, AND WISDOM TO THE CONFLICTS OF DAILY LIFE.**

C. **RELATIONAL PEACEMAKING, IN ESSENCE, IS THE DESIRE AND ABILITY TO OBEY JESUS' TIMELESS COMMAND:**

1. **Matthew 22:37-39 (NASB) "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.... 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'"**

2. **DISCUSS: Matthew 5:9 (NASB) "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."**

D. **AS WE LEARN RELATIONAL PEACEMAKING SKILLS, WE CAN EXPERIENCE MULTIPLE BENEFITS, INCLUDING:**

1. **STRONGER AND DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS,**

2. **LESS CONFLICT AT HOME (SPOUSE AND CHILDREN), AT CHURCH AND IN THE WORKPLACE,**

3. **AND BE A MORE COMPELLING WITNESS FOR CHRIST.**

E. **WHEN CHRISTIANS LEARN TO BE PEACEMAKERS, WE CAN TURN CONFLICT INTO AN OPPORTUNITY TO...**

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1. STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS.
  2. LIVE MORE JOYFULLY.
  3. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.
  4. MAKE OUR LIVES LIVING TESTIMONIES OF THE LOVE AND POWER OF JESUS CHRIST.
  5. THIS CLASS IS DESIGNED TO **HELP EACH ONE OF US, AND OUR CHILDREN, BECOME THAT KIND OF PEACEMAKER!**
3. THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST:
- A. PEACE WITH GOD.
  - B. PEACE WITH OTHERS.
  - C. PEACE WITH SELF.
1. **NOTE:** IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW GENUINE INTERNAL PEACE UNLESS WE ALSO PURSUE PEACE WITH GOD AND WITH OTHERS.
4. PEACE WITH GOD
- A. **NOTE:** PEACE WITH GOD DOES NOT COME AUTOMATICALLY.
1. BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED... THAT'S THE BAD NEWS.
    - a. Romans 3:23 (NASB) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
    - b. Romans 6:23a (NASB) For the wages of sin is death,
  2. BUT... THE GOOD NEWS IS...
    - a. Romans 5:8 (NASB) **But God** demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.**
    - 1) **DISCUSS: BUT GOD**
    - b. Romans 5:1 (NASB) Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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3. BELIEVING IN JESUS MEANS TRUSTING THAT HE EXCHANGED RECORDS (THE ECHANGE LIFE) WITH US AT CALVARY... THAT IS, THAT HE TOOK OUR SINFUL RECORD ON HIMSELF AND PAID IT IN FULL, GIVING US HIS PERFECT RECORD, WHICH OPENS THE WAY FOR PEACE WITH GOD.

a. AS WE:

1) TRUST IN JESUS,

2) ACCEPT HIS GIFT OF SALVATION,

3) AND DRAW NEARER TO HIM THROUGH

i. THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT,

ii. THE STUDY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HIS WORD,

iii. THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER,

iv. AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS CHURCH...

b. HIS PEACE CAN FILL EVERY PART OF OUR LIFE!

5. PEACE WITH OTHERS

A. IN ADDITION TO GIVING US PEACE WITH GOD, JESUS' SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS OPENED THE WAY FOR US TO ENJOY PEACE WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

1. Ephesians 2:14-18 (NIV) For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
2. THIS PEACE WHICH IS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS "UNITY", IS NOT SIMPLY THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICT AND STRIFE.

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- a. **UNITY** IS THE PRESENCE OF **GENUINE HARMONY, UNDERSTANDING, AND GOODWILL BETWEEN PEOPLE.**
- B. **GOD'S WORD CALLS US TO BE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE.**
  1. **Romans 12:18 (NASB)** If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men.**
  2. THIS KIND OF **PEACE** IS THE **DIRECT RESULT OF OBEYING THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT.**
    - a. **Matthew 22:39b (NASB)** 'YOU **SHALL LOVE** YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'
- C. THIS CLASS IS DEVOTED TO SHOWING **US, AND OUR CHILDREN, HOW TO PURSUE PEACE WITH OTHERS** WHEN **CONFLICT** HAS **DISRUPTED OUR RELATIONSHIPS.**
6. **PEACE WITH OURSELVES**
  - A. THROUGH JESUS WE CAN ALSO EXPERIENCE **PEACE WITHIN OURSELVES.**
  - B. ALTHOUGH NEARLY EVERYONE **LONGS FOR PEACE... IT ELUDES MOST PEOPLE.**
    1. **GENUINE INTERNAL PEACE CANNOT BE OBTAINED BY OUR OWN EFFORTS... IT IS A GIFT THAT GOD GIVES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIS SON AND OBEY HIS COMMANDS.**
      - a. IN OTHER WORDS, **INTERNAL PEACE IS A BY-PRODUCT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.**
      - b. **Isaiah 26:3 (NASB)** "The steadfast of mind **You will keep in perfect peace,** Because he trusts in You.
      - c. **Isaiah 32:17-18 (NASB)** And the **work of righteousness will be peace,** And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever. Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation, And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places;
      - d. **Psalms 119:165 (NASB)** Those who love Your law have great **peace,** And nothing causes them to stumble.
      - e. **Isaiah 48:18** "If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your **peace** would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.
    - C. **THOSE PASSAGES SHOW WHY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPERIENCE INTERNAL PEACE IF WE FAIL TO PURSUE PEACE WITH GOD AND PEACE WITH OTHERS!**

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1. **INTERNAL PEACE** COMES FROM:
  - a. BEING **RECONCILED TO GOD** THROUGH HIS SON **JESUS CHRIST**,
  - b. **RECEIVING HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** AND **THE POWER TO RESIST SIN**,
  - c. AND... THEN **OBEYING WHAT GOD COMMANDS**.
    - 1) **1 John 3:23 (NASB)** This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.
7. **BY GOD'S DESIGN, THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF PEACE ARE INSEPARABLY JOINED.**
  - A. **PEACE** WITH **GOD**, **PEACE** WITH **EACH OTHER**, AND **PEACE** WITH **OURSELVES** **COME IN THE SAME PACKAGE**.
    1. THEREFORE, IF WE WANT TO EXPERIENCE **INTERNAL PEACE**, WE **MUST**:
      - a. BE RECONCILED TO GOD BY **TRUSTING IN HIS SON**, AND
      - b. **SEEK HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE AROUND US**.
8. **DISCUSS: ENEMIES OF PEACE:**
  - A. FEAR
  - B. ANGER
  - C. ANXIETY
  - D. DISSAPPOINTMENT/UNFULFILLED EXPECTATIONS
  - E. PRIDE
  - F. ENVY
  - G. CONFLICT
    1. **CONFLICT IS INEVITABLE...** IT IS **HOW WE DEAL WITH CONFLICT** THAT **AFFECTS OUR PEACE**.
9. **NEXT WEEK: UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT** AS IT RELATES TO INDIVIDUALLY TO **PEACE IN PARENTS** AS WELL AS OUR **CHILDREN**.