

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Matthew 5:9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called sons of God.

Peace on Earth?

Equipped for Conflict – Part 1

Christmas 2025

Ashley McGlone



Peace on Earth? I've got questions:

- When we look at the news, it seems like there is anything but “peace on earth”.
- Nation? Family? Self?
- How do I find peace?
- What does Jesus have to do with this?

Luke 2

1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2

8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Luke 2

14 “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17 And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

What is peace? SHALOM

completeness (in number)

safety, soundness (in body)

welfare, health, prosperity

peace, quiet, tranquility, contentment

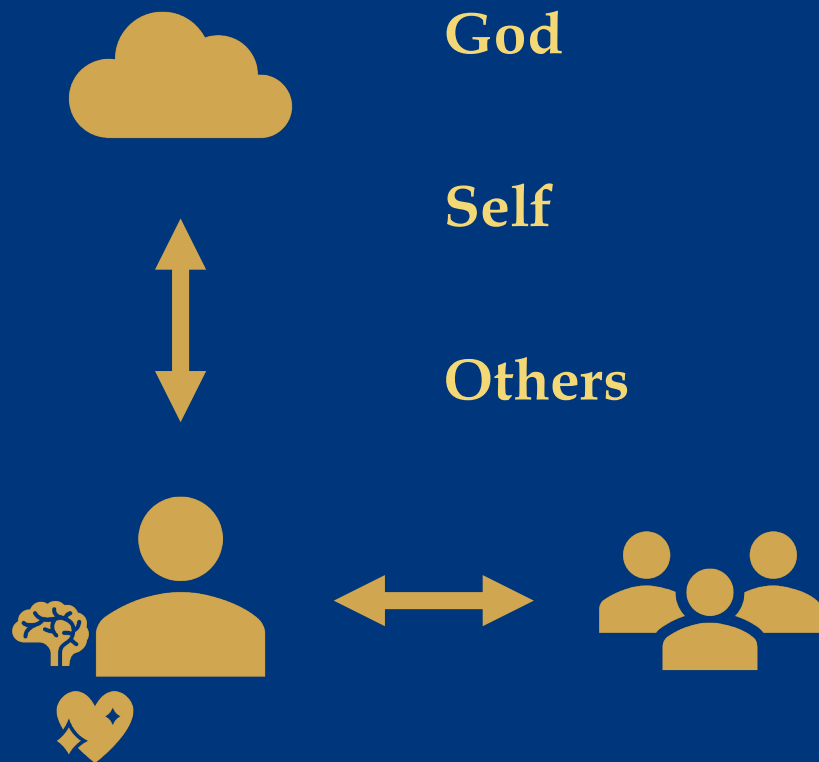
peace, friendship

of human relationships

with God especially in covenant relationship

peace (from war)

Peace on Three Levels



My peace is a byproduct of being right with God and others.

What is conflict?

an opportunity to glorify God

a temporary state of sin and unrest until God's eternal peace is made when Christ our Savior returns as King. (John 16:33)

peace making = reconciling conflict

The conflict is older and larger than us

- Genesis 3 – the crafty serpent, Did God really say?
- Genesis 4 – Cain, sin is crouching at the door
- Genesis 6 – Noah's day, evil, wicked, corrupt, violent

The God of Peace Making – Exodus 34

merciful

gracious

patient

loving

faithful

forgiving

but who will by no means clear the guilty

**We live in a society that
seeks to excuse the guilty.**

This is peace-faking.

Psychological labels as bandages covering sin.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing

Glory to the new born King

Peace on earth and mercy mild

God and sinners reconciled

Jesus came to bring peace.
Right?

Luke 2:25-35

[25] Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26] And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. [27] And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, [28] he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

Luke 2:25-35

[29] “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

[30] for my eyes have seen your salvation

[31] that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

[32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Luke 2:25-35

[33] And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. [34] And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is *opposed* [35] (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Peace is made.

Making peace requires more conflict... *temporarily.*

Courage for confrontation

John the Baptist Proclaiming Jesus

Luke 3:17

His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 10 commissioned for conflict

16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. 17 Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, 18 and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. ... 21 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10 hyperbolic worthiness

34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

John Chrysostom – AD 407 – On Matthew 10

What sort of peace is it that Jesus asks them to pronounce upon entering each house?

And what kind of peace is it of which the angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace”?

And if Jesus came not to bring peace, why did all the prophets publish peace as good news?

Because this more than anything is peace: when the disease is removed.

This is peace: when the cancer is cut away.

John Chrysostom – AD 407 – On Matthew 10

Only with such radical surgery is it possible for heaven to be reunited to earth.

Only in this way does the physician preserve the healthy tissue of the body. The incurable part must be amputated.

Only in this way does the military commander preserve the peace: by cutting off those in rebellion.

Thus it was also in the case of the tower of Babel, that their evil peace was ended by their good discord.

Peace therefore was accomplished.

2012 gall bladder

Jerome – AD 420 – On Matthew 10

He had before said, “What I say to you in darkness, that speak ye in the light;” He now tells them what will follow upon that preaching, saying, “Think not that I am come to send peace upon earth; I am not come to send peace, but a sword.” For in the matter of belief in Christ, the whole world was divided against itself; each house had its believers and its unbelievers; and therefore was this holy war sent, that an unholy peace might be broken through. Yet was it not Christ who made this division, but the evil nature of the parties; when He says that it is He that does it, He speaks according to the manner of Scripture.

Jesus was without sin when he rebuked the Pharisees, making peace across millenia

Matthew 23 *Seven Woes...*

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ... 33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? 34 Therefore I send you prophets and wise men and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and persecute from town to town, 35 so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

Isaiah 9 – Prince of Peace-Making

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Isaiah 9 – Prince of Peace-Making

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 **For to us a child is born,** to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the **throne of David** and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 2

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Colossians 1:19-20

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

reconcile = making peace

making peace by the ultimate conflict

What greater conflict? The sinless dying for the sinful.

The Good News of Great Joy



Christmas



Good
Friday



Easter



Ascension



Return

The God of Peace – Romans 16:20a

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Revelation 12

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world – he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

The God of Peace Making – Exodus 34

merciful
gracious
patient
loving
faithful
forgiving

*Peace for those who repent
This is what God wants*

*Judgment necessary for justice
Don't end up here*

but who will by no means clear the guilty

Romans 5 – Conflict reconciled in Christ

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ... 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Jesus came to bring peace.
Right? Yes!

Jesus came to make peace.

Colossians 1:19-20

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Peace on Earth?

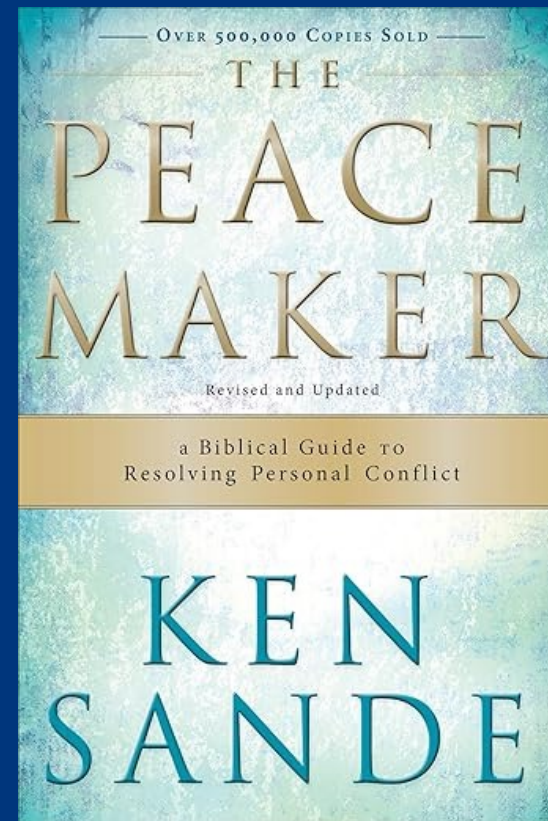
Peace in our nation? Families? Self?

Making peace with God is the first step.

The Peacemaker

A Biblical Guide to
Resolving Personal Conflict

Ken Sande



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PREFACE

Peacemakers are people who breathe grace. 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. God delights to breathe his grace through peacemakers and use them to dissipate anger, improve understanding, promote justice, and encourage repentance and reconciliation.

**“I do not understand
my own actions.” Paul**

Part 2 – Next week – Peace with Self

The Point

Peace is made.

My conflict with God is called sin.

Jesus entered our conflict.

Jesus made peace by the blood of His cross.

You can make peace with God by repenting of your sin today.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing

Glory to the new born King

Peace on earth and mercy mild

God and sinners reconciled

Do you have unresolved conflict between you and God?

Talk and pray with us down front

QR code in bulletin notes

Prayer

Benediction

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.