

## Peace of Cake

Good Morning NorthRidge! Today we will be continuing on with our series on the Beatitudes and today's sermon is on Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God." Essentially, there are three main ways in which Christians should have the attitude of a Peacemaker.

### Peace *With* God

The first and most important relationship that needs to be at peace is our relationship with God, the Father. It is not by our own doing, but Christ's death on the Cross. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ." It is only through faith in Jesus that we are able to receive the forgiveness of our sins, and by having faith in Him, we are no longer under God's wrath but in God's peace.

### Peace *By* God

St. Augustine once wrote, "The wisdom that is from above is first *pure*, and then *peaceable* [Jam 3:17]; the blessed ones are *pure* toward God, and *peaceable* toward men." In essence, when our relationship with God is at peace, He desires us to extend that attitude of peace to those around us. We should forgive those who wrong us to maintain the peace, and we should ask for the forgiveness of our sins against others also. However, being a Peacemaker does not make you a pacifist, but rather an activist. As Christians, when we see injustice taking place such as bullying, gossip, abuse, or crime; we should be peacemakers and stand up for Truth and Justice. When believers have "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" the peace-receivers become peace-mediators.

### Peace *Of* God

During our series on the Beatitudes, we have discussed this idea of true Blessedness (Makerios) which does not depend on circumstances, but rather on God's faithfulness. Similar to our Blessedness, our Peace should not depend on our circumstance. Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Remember that Our God is the God of Peace; that Jesus reigns as the Prince of Peace; that the Holy Spirit dwells in us as the Spirit of Peace. We thereby become sons of God, which in turn means, that we become a Son or Daughter of Peace.