

073017 **Peace Makers Part 2** Today we examine the Kingdom principle or Beatitude of Peace Making...the ability to make peace when there is war ...a concept the world has pined for since the first the time of Adam and Eve... Jesus said...

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the Children of God...

The peacemakers shall be called children of God. For Jesus was called The Prince of Peace ...we as fellow children of God, are therefore princes and princesses of Peace also... it is an identifier of our lineage!

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, **to us a son is given**, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called**Prince of Peace**.

He will bring a rebellious Kingdom to Peace...first with God, then ourselves then others... ***Isaiah 9:7*** Of the greatness of his government and **peace** there will be no end.

Jesus Kingdom government is one of peace...and the citizens are peace makers..Peace is a call to heroic activity. It is God's work, in which we may share.

*****So what does being a child of God peacemaker look like?** Well the opposite of Peacemaking is WAR-Making...Tim please put this definition up

- **A child of God actively pursues intentional interventions in difficult relational conflicts, with the goal to end the hostility between two parties and if possible restore the relationship.**

*****What does Peacemaking look like?...It looks like true Forgiveness and it always entails theses certain steps...**

1)The first Step to Peacemaking is the mind set to give up any hope of having a better past...

- **What keeps us at war with people? we have been hurt...we want revenge or at least justice...we want them to hurt, like we have been hurt...**
- **It is essential that I decide I want to be at peace therefore I must forgive the one who injured me. I might be able to be at peace with the offender...but regardless I will be at peace !**

listen...Peacemaking is leaving revenge or punishment up to God...

So Paul leaves us this comfort...^{Rom 12:19} Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the

contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink, In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ^{RO 12:21} Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- **Without forgiveness we are continually at war with each other...**
- therefore continuing the cycle of hurting for being hurt... and this war making spills into our relationships with other people ...
- That is why so many people only have superficial short term relationships ...because when their hurt they get bitter go to war and move on... and the consequences of living in unforgiveness is a life of resentment and isolation.
- Others who do stay in relationship dig trenches and continually fire at each other
- And the collateral damage effects everyone else we are in relationship with or will be in relationship with...we start out at peace with them...until they touch a war wound!!

*****In Relationship wars ...we give and receive wounds..those wounds look like this**

Ephesians 4:31-32 Get rid of all bitterness (attitude), *rage and anger, brawling and slander (violent actions)*, along with every form of malice (**willfully picking fights**). Be *kind (Action) and compassionate(attitude) to one another, forgiving each other (action)*, just as in Christ God forgave you. (mimicking our Family)

- **Anger/rage and bitterness create victimhood mentality...which leads to entitlement thinking..I am owed because these bad things happened..**
- *and War wounds eat up a lot of energy...slows our life down* If you are locked in war over hurts, you have less available energy for your life now.
Unforgiveness destroys relationships...

*****But here is the Beauty...If you forgive someone's hurts they are removed...I am not at war with you any longer...I get freedom... something happens inside of our souls, I can then healing...Peace and war cannot simultaneously reside in the same Space...**

- Forgiving others spares us from the consequences of living out the stress of maintaining a war!! in ourselves, with God, or others.
- *An old Chinese proverb rightly states "The man who opts for revenge should dig two graves." One for himself and one for the offender...it kills them both*

- **Forgiveness is a gift you give yourself from the heart.** Bitterness and anger imprison you emotionally, for there is a rippling effect of harboring a grudge. When you won't forgive someone, it negatively infects your family and friends.

2.To forgive I must Acknowledge the Hurt, the pain and the Wrong..or else it is peace faking! I must be *Honest* about hurts...

Ezekeil Spoke against the leaders for saying everything was alright when it wasn't!

*Eze 13:10 “‘Because they lead my people astray, saying, “Peace,” when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy (cracked) wall is built, they cover it with whitewash (Plaster),
¹¹ therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth.*

- **not dealings with wounds is like merely plastering over cracked walls...when rains comes(greater hurt)the walls fall....**
- **listen avoidance heals the wounds only slightly and prepares the way for greater damage!**
- **Peacemaking is painful...you have to deal with the hurts... Instead of turning from the pain and anger or pretending it doesnot hurt or matter, we must face them.**
- **However A hurt that is acknowledged... is a hurt that can be forgiven and healed**
- **allow yourself to say, I was hurt/offended when my spouse/him/her/they... did/said... this. Instead of suppressing our feelings, we must come to grips with them. ...the pain must be honestly expressed !**
- **How I was hurt, what it made me feel like, the consequences it has had on my life...that is acknowledgment.**
- **And one cannot truly forgive without experiencing the emotion of grief...loss**
- **The cup of our emotional pain and grief must be poured out...**
- **It is a well established fact that healing is a process...and forgiveness acknowledges the grief and pain we experience through the hurtful acts of others.**
- **Paradoxically...a peace maker makes trouble to make peace! they have to be willing to confront hurt!!**

3). Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin..to become at Peace with it...it happened I cannot fix it, but I can be free froms its control over me in the present and future

How many people blame the people of their past..for their present failures and lack of hope for the future? we are all living with the consequences of someone's else's sin...The

only choice is whether we do so in the bondage of bitterness or in the freedom of forgiveness and you will be able to direct your life in positive thoughts and actions.

- Allow God to bring to the surface the painful memories and acknowledge how you feel with those who have hurt you...then put your weapons down...allow God to deal with them...
- *A Formula to grant forgiveness...Please add this formula Tim..*

say out loud...**Lord I forgive:** (name the person) **For :** (What he did or she failed to do)
....Because it made me feel : (share the painful feelings i.e., rejected, dirty, worthless, inferior, etc.)

Then Pray....Lord, I forgive them and relinquish revenge and resentment...please heal my damaged emotions freeing me from bitterness and bondage. Bless them in Jesus name I pray.

An Example: How I forgave Father B.... A little background.. According to the OC Weekly October 27 2005...in an article describing how the Archdiocese of Los Angeles hid bad priests in Orange county...

I quote the article... “The October 11, 2005 release by the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles records on 176 suspected child-raping priests adds new evidence that church officials played hide- the- pedophile for decades....the documents provide graphic proof that Orange County Catholic church officials accepted, tolerated, and sometimes conspired to hide known pedophiles before and after OC split to form its own diocese in 1976. Here are six of the worst LA/OC cases....the priest that molested me headed up that list... I needed to forgive the church in general too.

I want to walk you through my forgiveness of Father B... as an example for you and my hope is it will help you ..if you have forgiveness issues yet dealt with.... Know this God wants to heal you and healing is possible and it is real...you can make peace with your past!

Lord... I forgive Father B. for: Molesting me ...and how that messed with my mind and heart... I forgive you for... deceiving and Taking advantage of an emotionally needy child...me....Making me think you cared for me, and making me feel like I was special... when he was setting me as a tool for his own perverse pleasure

- I forgive him For robbing me of my innocence... I forgive him for....Abusing his position of religious authority...to fool my family

- I forgive him for ...For misrepresenting Jesus to me...as a condoner of hurt... For misrepresenting Jesus as a weakling with no power to stop evil
- I forgive Father B....For turning me away from Jesus...and his church and his ways...
- I forgive Father B for making me think all Christian are fake hypocrites...
- I forgive him for...Confusing me with my own sexuality...for filling me with shame and guilt...and the suffocating fear of anyone finding out...
- I forgive him for making me carry a secret....that crushed my inner spirit....
 - I forgive him for being a prime motivator of my distrust of...and rebellion against authority of all kinds.
- I forgive him for Confusing me about God...good and evil...right and wrong
- For making me feel that something was seriously wrong with me for this to happen...
- I forgive him for making me feel dirty...and sick... establishing a long inner struggle of low self worth...of feeling less than others
- I forgive him for causing such a deep wound in my life ...that I was easy prey for the anesthetizing and pain numbing lure of alcohol and drugs... at the end..

I prayed....Lord, I forgive him and surrender revenge and resentment and give up my right to hurt him for hurting me and leave him to you... I pray that you Help him. Please heal my damaged emotions freeing me from bitterness and bondage. ...And Jesus now that I forgive him ...I choose to take responsibility for my life... I choose to not blame him anymore for my actions in Your name I pray.

- Once forgiveness is offered and our wounds exposed and we pour out the cup of our grief and pain...then becomes the free space for God to enter in and begin the healing of the hurt and pain...
- Holding someone's sin against them is a lot of work...it is heavy takes mental energy ..energy that can be used for productive things..
- Wounds go deep but Gods healing goes deeper...forgive them and ask God to heal you...and this is what will happen ...Your wound will become the means to lighten the burdens of the pain and sufferings of other.....

4) Forgiving does not necessarily involve Reconciliation...though that is the desire...

- According to Scripture, full reconciliation is the ideal in human relationships.
- **But Reconciliation is the responsibility of both the forgiver *and* the injurer, not the forgiver alone. it takes two making the changes necessary to walk in peace together**
Reconciliation requires two people making the decision to change in their relationship...to turn and move toward each other....

- Peacemaking does not mean going back to a dangerous or abusive situation...because the injuring party says their sorry...

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

- The words "if it is possible" imply that it may not always be possible to maintain peaceful relationships, and the words "as far as it depends on you" mean that it is you are not always able to maintain peace in some relationships...
- Forgiveness does not necessarily include full restoration of trust broken by an injury.
- The injured party can forgive an offender even though the offender may never (or for safety sake, must never) be a part of his or her life in the future.
- Nor is "Forgiveness is not a magic trick that allows us to control other people." I can continue hurting you because you have to forgive me!!!
- I'll keep forgiving even though he never changes, since that's what Jesus calls me to do. Yes, Jesus asks us to forgive over and over, but he never asks us to put up with wrong behavior over and over!!
- Part of peace making is to set clear-cut boundaries that protect us from further harm.
- Forgiving from our heart isn't being a punching bag. Although the Lord forgives, he doesn't tolerate sin, and neither should we.
- Jesus' "Parable of the Prodigal Son" presents a wonderful image of reconciliation and reunion between a father and his son.
- But the sad reality of life is that not all prodigals return home.
- Neither do all prodigals recognize, take responsibility for, or even cease their injurious acts.
- Also Forgiving does not necessarily involve...The exemption of the injurer from the demands of justice,
- Again... In Jesus' "Parable of the Prodigal Son," the father forgives his errant son.
- However, he does not also seek to divide his estate between his two sons a second time, as if the younger son had not already received his fair share.
- Peace making honors fair treatment of the elder brother and the ultimate responsibility of the younger son for his actions.

5) Everyday I need to make peace in my Heart with the people in my life.... ^{MT 6:11} Give us today our daily bread. ¹² Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

- **We are hurt often...we need to be diligent peace keepers...** I think this is why Jesus told his students to forgive “seventy times seven” (Matt. 18:21).
- **Forgiveness in this sense is rarely easy or quick. We might have to do it over and over again in our minds..**
- **If I forgive someone for a wrong done to me, I no longer allow that event to determine how I treat the other person.**
- **I may remember the wrong or I may forget it, but either way I have disarmed it.**
- **It no longer determines my actions, thoughts, or words.**
- **Practice on small hurts. the little battles! To become a generous forgiver of major pains, practice forgiveness on small hurts. - a rude clerk, a driver who cut you off, a doctor who keeps you waiting and waiting, etc.**
- **Use those events as practice time to prepare you for the tougher task of forgiving major hurts...**
- **Work up too major ones...caused by those near to us...and those that we still carry from our past**
- **forgiveness opens the way to healing of the war wounds we all receive living in this world...and opens the door of peace! Just what the world needs! end**

2 Corinthians 5:¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation end