

Ministers of Reconciliation

Chapter 7

Audio lesson: Sermon on the Mount 7



Objective: To understand the seventh beatitude and learn what it means to be a peacemaker. (Text: Matthew 5:1-9)



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

—Matthew 5:9

Mankind is alienated from God. That's why those who are disciples of Christ—have been to the top of the mountain—must come back down with a purpose. If we have been reconciled with God—made right in our relationship with Him—it makes sense that God would use us to help others be reconciled with Him. He will also help us find reconciliation in our own relationships and use us to help others find reconciliation in theirs. The seventh beatitude speaks to the mission of those who are part of God's solution.

1. The seventh beatitude says, "Blessed are the _____, for they shall be called _____."
2. True or false? Everyone who has been reconciled with God can be a minister of reconciliation.
3. True or false? Being a peacemaker means helping people reconcile with God, but it has nothing to do with helping them reconcile with each other.
4. True or false? Only pastors and other ministers are capable of helping people find peace with God.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and then choose one correct answer for each of the next 4 questions.

5. What compels us to share God's message of salvation with others (verse 14)?
 - a. His commandments
 - b. His love
 - c. Our guilt
 - d. Our talents and abilities
6. How does God reconcile the world through Christ (verse 19)?
 - a. He teaches us how to please Him.
 - b. He tells us that there is no such thing as sin.
 - c. He tells us that sin is not a big deal.
 - d. He doesn't hold our sins against us.

14 For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; 15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. 16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

—2 Corinthians 5:14-21

7. Whose responsibility is it to give this message of salvation (verse 19)?
 - a. God will do it Himself or send an angel.
 - b. It's in the Bible; people can find it if they want to.
 - c. We are the messengers.
 - d. Only a few chosen people who are good at speaking are given this mission.

8. How would you describe Paul's attitude in verse 20?
 - a. Casual
 - b. Zealous and enthusiastic
 - c. Angry and judgmental
 - d. Apathetic and uncaring

9. What are some effective ways to be an "ambassador" of Christ, or a minister of reconciliation, for others? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Share the gospel with others.
 - b. Go to church regularly.
 - c. Demonstrate God's love and mercy.
 - d. Point out people's sins and tell them they must do better.
 - e. Be patient with people who do not understand God.
 - f. Plead with people to understand how important their relationship with God is.
 - g. Do not spend any time with sinners.

10. Why do you think ministers of reconciliation will be called sons of God? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. They are obedient and do His work.
 - b. They resemble Him.
 - c. They are born of His Spirit.
 - d. They have earned His favor.



What are you doing to reconcile others to God? Is there someone you need to be reconciled to? If so, what does God want you to do about it? What are you doing to help people reconcile with one another?



Thank God that He sent Jesus to reconcile us to Him and is not counting our sins against us. Ask God to help you be His ambassador and to give you opportunities to lead others to Him. Ask God to help you reconcile with anyone you need to be at peace with.



Going Deeper

1. What does it mean that God has been reconciled to man? _____

2. What is the miracle of reconciliation? _____

3. What is the ministry of reconciliation? _____

4. What are you doing to reconcile others to God? _____

5. Is there someone that you need to be reconciled to? If so, what does God want you to do about it? _____

6. What can you do to help people reconcile to each other? Are you actively working to help others to be reconciled? _____

7. Why do you think ministers of reconciliation will be called sons of God? _____
