

**“Blessed are the  
peacemakers”**

**Peace and War**

**Mathew 5:9**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**Matthew 5:9**

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

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.”**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**Romans 12:18**

**If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“Even as Christian are to seek peace, we are not to do so on the principles of righteousness. This significant qualification means that peace is not to be sought at any price - that righteousness must not be sacrificed in the name of false peace.”**

# **“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“...God is not against killing in all circumstances, but only murder. War is never a good thing, but sometimes it is a necessary thing. In a world full of sinful people, war is inevitable.**

**Sometimes the only way to keep sinful people from doing great harm to the innocent is by going to war.”**

# **“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“Some Christians have adopted pacifism- a total rejection of all armed conflict. To be consistent, pacifists must oppose not only offensive wars but defensive use of force as well. The central problem of pacifism, a minority position in Christian history - is the implication that all uses of force and strength are morally wrong and that Christians must renounce all uses of arms, even to protect others.”**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“Silence in the face of evil is itself  
evil; God will not hold us  
guiltless. Not to speak is to speak,  
not to act is to act.”**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**



# **“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“...the just war theory holds that in order for a war or use of arms to be justified, several criteria must be satisfied. The effort must have a just cause, which means that the use of force must be defensive and never offensive. The force must also be employed with a just intention to secure a fair, lasting peace for all parties. War must also be understood as a last resort,**

**“when all other legitimate means of settling a conflict have been tried and have failed. Other principle demand that a just war limit objectives to what is necessary to establish a just peace, that the use of force be approved by legitimate authority, that only proportionate means be used, and that noncombatants be protected whenever possible.**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**There must be a reasonable chance of success and a realistic hope that the conflict will lead to a superior, lasting peace.”**

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

**“It is an error to say that God never supports a war. Jesus is not a pacifist. In a world filled with evil people, sometimes war is necessary to prevent even greater evil.**

**If Hitler had not been defeated by World War II, how many more millions would have been killed? If the American Civil War had not been fought, how much longer would African-Americans have had to suffer as slaves?”**

**“At the other extreme, Christians must not love war or glory in armed conflict. Christians cannot wage with earthly weapons the most important war we are called to fight.”**

# **“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

## **Ephesians 6:12-13**

**12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

## **Why War?**

**“The most extreme and large scale version of human competition is war, with the wholesale destruction of property and human lives.”**

**Dr. Millard Erickson**



# **“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

## **James 4:1-3**

**1** What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? **2** You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God

**3** When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

# **“Blessed are the peacemakers”**

## **Romans 3:10-18**

**10** As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; **11** there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. **12** All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

**13** “Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit.”

“The poison of vipers is on their  
lips.” **14** “Their mouths are full of  
cursing and bitterness.” **15** “Their

feet are swift to shed blood;

**16** ruin and misery mark their  
ways, **17** and the way of peace they  
do not know.” **18** “There is no fear  
of God before their eyes.”

# **The Prince of Peace**

**“Christians understand that war is the result of human sinfulness. Thus, the scourge of war is another reminder of why Christ died and why true and permanent peace can come only when Jesus Christ returns and subjects all powers to His authority. Until then, Christians are to be agents for peace—real, righteousness peace.”**

# The Prince of Peace

## Isaiah 9:6-7

**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 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**7** Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

# The Prince of Peace

## Isaiah 2:4

**He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.**



# The Prince of Peace

## Micah 4:1-5

**1** In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

**2 Many nations will come and say,  
“Come, let us go up to the  
mountain of the LORD, to the  
house of the God of Jacob. He will  
teach us his ways, so that we may  
walk in his paths.” The law will go  
out from Zion, the word of the  
LORD from Jerusalem.**

**3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.**

**4** Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. **5** All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

# **The Prince of Peace**

## **Revelation 17:14**

**They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings — and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”**

# Applications

- **There will be wars**
- **Christians must strive for peace**
- **To strive for peace, we must evangelize and be Gospel witnesses**

# **Final Thoughts**

**No Jesus, no peace.**

**Know Jesus, know peace**

# Final Thoughts

## Philippians 4:6-9

**6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



**8** Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. **9** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.