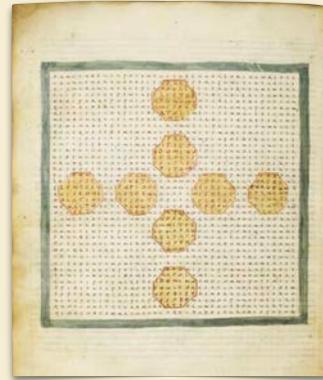


The Peacemaker

“Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children
of God” (Matthew 5:9, NIV).

June 15, 2025
Pastor Tyler Williams
Greenfield Community Church



“Creator’s blessing rests on the ones who make peace. It will be said of them, ‘They are the children of the Great Spirit!’ (FNV).

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (NIV).

“God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God” (NLT).

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family” (MSG).

Peacemaker – ειρηνοποιος

Noun “peace”
(*eirene* ειρηνη)



Verb “to do, make”
(*poieo* ποιεω)

“Someone who endeavours to reconcile persons or groups who have disagreements, making peace between them.”

PEACEmakers

What is “Peace”?

- The absence of strife and war?
- “Inner” peace or tranquility of soul?



PEACEmakers

Old Testament Shalom (שלום)

- A warm greeting (שלום עליכם).
- The absence of conflict (1Kings 4:24).
- The idea of wholeness and salvation.
- Inherently social and relational.
- Vision of God's renewed creation (Isa 52:7-10; 60:17-21).



PEACEmakers

Shalom is not a *negative peace*, which is solely the absence of tension. Rather, it is a *positive peace* which is the presence of justice and right-relatedness (see Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," in *Why We Can't Wait*, 97).



PEACEMAKERS

Jesus describes *the posture of a peaceMAKER* when he says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" — with the same promise: "that you may be children of your Father in heaven" (Matt 5:44-45).

PeaceMAKING is an act of love. It is a willingness to challenge conflict and evil, but with a commitment to not respond in kind.

PeaceMAKERS

"Jesus' followers are called to peace. When Jesus called them, they found their peace. Jesus is their peace. Now they are not only to have peace, but they are to make peace. To do this they *renounce violence and strife*. Those things never help the cause of Christ.... *Jesus' disciples maintain peace by choosing to suffer instead of causing others to suffer.*" — Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Discipleship*, 108.

The PEACEMAKER

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [the Son], **and through him to reconcile to himself all things**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross**" (Colossians 1:19-20).



The PEACEMAKER

Jesus has established *peace with God* through his reconciling work on the cross:

- "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 5:1; Col 1:19-20)

The PEACEMAKER

Jesus has also established *peace with others* through the cross:

- **For Christ himself is our peace**, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility" and "create in himself one new humanity out of the two, **thus making peace**" (Eph 2:14-15).

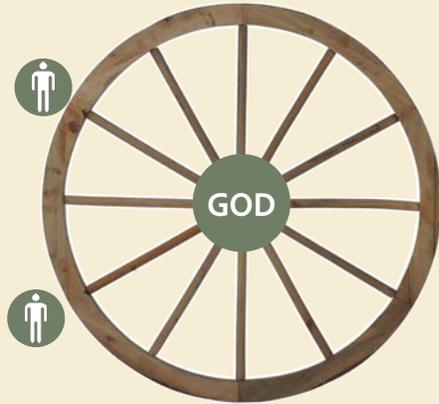
Called to be Peacemakers

As followers of Christ, we are called to be Peacemakers...

- within the church (Rom 14:19; Eph 4:3; Col 3:15); and
- in the world (Matt 5:9; Rom 12:18; Heb 12:14).

Invitation

Peace with God.
Peace with Others.



The example of the Wheel of Dorotheos of Gaza (d. 620).

Invitation

Peace in our communities and the world.

- Pray that we may be peacemakers in our communities.
- Advocate and pray for peace in the world.