

Call to Worship

"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities." (Psalm 130:5-8)

Matthew 5:9

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

The Condition of the Heart

- Apart from Jesus, the heart is wicked, deceptive, and idolatrous; the heart is a revelation of man--character and personality;
- Anything apart from a new heart is behavior modification;
- Christ died on the cross not only to save sinners, but to give them a spiritual transplant;

Our Problem (Creation, Fall, and Grace)

→ Creation and Fall

- We are created in the image of God, to reflect His glory, and worship Him;
- Each one of us has shattered that image because of sin;
- *"Sin is failing to conform to the law of God in act, attitude, and nature; anything contrary to His character is contrary to God Himself." - Wayne Grudem*
- Because of sin, we are not only broken but judged; not only are we wrong, but ruined;
- Sin brings separation and war with God;

→ Grace

- God initiates not only conversation, but salvation; covering our sin, making us new, and restores us to Himself;
- Because of His sovereign work, we receive peace;

A Peacemaker

→ What a peacemaker isn't;

- Passive;
- Easily appeased;

→ What a peacemaker is;

- Forgiven;
- No longer at war;
- Status is changed;
- Actively pursues peace;

- How one becomes a peacemaker;
 - Confession;
 - Agreement (poor in spirit);
 - Unworthy;
 - Hatred for sin;
 - Grace
 - Repentance;
 - Change of mind;
 - Eyes fixed on Jesus;
 - Surrender;

- How one maintains peace
 - Faith;
 - Truth;
 - Agreement;
 - Acting Upon Truth;
 - Community;
 - Grace toward others;

What Does a Peacemaker Do?

- Speak Appropriately;
- Think Biblically;
- Pursue Peace;

Sonship

- Adoption
 - Pursued;
 - Sealed;
- Redemption
- Inheritance

The heart of the gospel is that God pursues, rescues, and redeems His kids; giving them peace and grace.

Benediction

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” (Romans 15:13)