

# Peacekeeping or Peacemaking? Pt. 2

## Introduction

- (James 3:13-18)
- Last week: What it takes to be equipped to be Peacemakers
  - stop living like orphans
  - and our diagnostic: Joy?
- This week:
  - What does Peacemaking look like?
  - The Peacemaker is: Someone who has a view of the world where he or she takes into account that life always involves struggle, and to be a servant to Jesus in this world you've got to fight like you have never fought before.
- Book recommendation: Timothy Lane & Paul Tripp, *Relationships, A Mess Worth Making*.
  - "As you read this book, we hope you will see that we don't need new or sophisticated techniques to see relationships flourish. It all boils down to basic character qualities that can only be formed in the heart by the gospel. This is how relationships grow and communities form to **reflect God's glory and grace.**"
  - It's either all about God or all about you.
  - On the surface that sounds easy, but it's really harder than we admit
- Peacemaking is done in one of two ways:
  - Destructive Conflict (vv:14-16) [but we think it's good]
  - Constructive Conflict (vv:17-18) [conflict's not always bad]

## Message

- Destructive Conflict – why is it so prevalent?...
  - Why is it so hard? Because we think we doing it right.
  - I want to say this, **many people are so used to a destructive approach that they believe it's normal.**
    - It's been going on so long there seems to be no other way of doing things

- So I'm going to lay out just a few of the causes that this passage indicates
  - Jealousy and selfish ambition
  - They **ARE** connected
- Jealousy
  - ***a disguised form of rivalry and thus jealousy***; the person sees himself as jealous for the truth, but God and others see the bitterness, rigidity, and personal pride which are far from the truth.<sup>1</sup>
  - seems to be coordinate with ἔρις in the sense 'rivalry' or 'party-attachment'<sup>2</sup>
  - I have an unhealthy attachment to my view
  - This is what starts every conflict in my marriage
  - How badly do you need to win? – no banter
- Selfish ambition
  - Jealousy starts every conflict, selfish ambition fuels every conflict
  - It's demonic (3:15) and vile (3:16)
    - 🍏 When we're looking in the face of Jesus
    - 🍏 When we understand grace
    - 🍏 We do away with selfish ambition
  - The definition is simple, my honor is more important than God's
    - 🍏 That is what we're saying
    - 🍏 My honor is more important
    - 🍏 And, I'll find creative ways to make this happen
    - 🍏 Selfish ambition shouldn't surprise us in how vile it can be, and how manipulative
    - 🍏 "Kyle, I'm not manipulative..." [look, we've been doing it so long...]
  - Manipulation
    - 🍏 "You're not hearing me"
    - ❖ No, I hear you

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<sup>1</sup> Davids, P. H. (1982). *The Epistle of James: a commentary on the Greek text* (p. 151). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

<sup>2</sup> Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed., p. 427). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- ❖ I just don't agree with you
- ❖ Accusations
- 🍏 This deserves [or I deserve] your attention
  - ❖ It needs to be done this way
  - ❖ What I deserve is...
  - ❖ When we slide out from under the gospel, my sin drives my thoughts and actions
  - ❖ Don't assume because it's #1 on your list that it's #1 on God's list
    - Your spouse
    - You children
    - Your church
- 🍏 "God told me..."
  - ❖ Really?
  - ❖ Either we have a clear command from the pages of Scripture
  - ❖ Or you heard the audible voice of God
  - ❖ Subjective vs. objective
  - ❖ God told me in a dream to move the nursery [1989]
  - ❖ How do you argue with "God told me"?
  - ❖ I'm very OK with, "I've prayed about it, and here's where my thoughts are..."
- 🍏 You don't understand
  - ❖ That's not the right way...
  - ❖ That's why you're not hearing me...
- 🍏 That's worldly...
  - ❖ Why do we go to this so often?
  - ❖ It's easily defined as I want it to be
  - ❖ You know, real Christians...
    - All of this is a big ball of manipulation which is really saying, "I don't trust the Holy Spirit to work."
- We really think we're better [self-promotion] – vile, demonic
  - (v:9) Imago Dei
  - Image of God
  - (Genesis 1:26) "*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."*

- *“...remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship.” – C.S. Lewis*
  - That’s why last week I called us to Severe Honesty
    - We can’t be peace makers without it
      - 🍏 Facebook or social media, is what you’re posting aiming toward peacemaking?
      - 🍏 Life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness [apart from Jesus] or gun ownership
      - 🍏 Not promised by Scripture
      - 🍏 Can we be honest enough to acknowledge that?
        - ❖ ***You might be so used to a destructive approach that you believe it’s normal.***
    - We can’t see ourselves through the lens of Scripture without it
    - If you’re just realizing this today, PRAISE God!
      - 🍏 If you’re not sure about tendencies to manipulate or self-promote
      - 🍏 Ask someone
      - 🍏 Yeah, it’ll be hard, but waring against the flesh always is
  - So where is Jesus is all of this?
    - He wants to free us from these things because He’s better
    - Jesus came not to be served but to serve...
    - I want to be your peace so you can truly pursue:
- Constructive Conflict
  - An eternal perspective
    - *“It seems to me that one of the best examples is just to go back to Jesus and His way of engaging in conflict. You will notice that sometimes Jesus seems to be going out of His way to get in conflict. Did you ever notice how much that Jesus seems to be controversial?”*<sup>3</sup>
    - Why?
    - His claims are exclusive, and they are truth.
    - Let peacemaking be about Jesus’ truths not ones I make up

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<sup>3</sup> Sonship, World Harvest Mission, Lesson 13, Peacekeeping or Peacemaking?

- Verse 17: Wisdom
  - You need wisdom to engage in Peacemaking
  - You don't have it
  - Our natural inclination is destructive
  - Comes from above
    - 🍏 (1:5) IF?
    - 🍏 We all lack wisdom
- (:17) "*pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*"
- Peaceable
  - We do want to win, but we should want to win the person not the point
  - see the difference?
  - We ask questions and don't accuse because we truly seek to understand what we really don't know
  - Is this a guarantee of success?
  - (Romans 12:18) "If **possible**, so far as it **depends on you**, live peaceably with all."
  - Nope, no guarantees
- Gentle
  - Fruit of the Spirit
  - Deal with issues not personalities
  - So I can talk about something that happened without reverting to, "You know, you always..."
- Sincere
  - ἀνυπόκριτος, **pert. to being without pretense, genuine, sincere**<sup>4</sup>
  - Doesn't this seem to fit with honest?
- Impartial, Sincere, and open to reason
  - 🍏 Do I really want to hear and weigh what you're saying?
  - 🍏 Ever talk to an unbeliever about the state of religious persecution today?
  - 🍏 As Christians, we're more and more feeling the hostility of society
    - ❖ We're mocked for our views on abortion

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<sup>4</sup> Arndt, Danker, Bauer, W. (2000). (p. 91).

- ❖ We're mocked as a replica of the Ark was built in Kentucky
- ❖ Russia's new law
- ❖ If someone were to walk up and say to you, nah, America [the world] really isn't like that, you'd probably passionately counter that.
- ❖ Yes? – “You need to be in my shoes”
  - I'm asking you to be sincere/impartial/open

🍏 What about a brother or sister of color who sharing that racism still exists [and it does]?

- ❖ This has been a hard week in America
- ❖ I felt I'd be remiss if I didn't address it on some level
- ❖ Just because you or I don't harbor any harmful intentions against minorities doesn't mean there isn't a race problem in America.
- ❖ So, right now, are you open to this concept?
  - Maybe your view of this is incomplete?
  - Maybe I'm not as “impartial” as I think?
- ❖ I had to ask myself, “would I be indifferent if I knew any of the victims personally?”

🍏 Weep with those who weep

🍏 **Impartial, Sincere, and open to reason**

- (v:18) A harvest of righteousness
  - Sown in peace
  - By peacemakers
  - (v:13) Show who is wise, understanding, and humble [meek]
- Peacemaking is hard apart from Jesus
  - In fact, it really isn't possible
  - It's like an armistice
    - WWI
    - Korea
    - There's no peace treaty
    - So you really just pretend everything is OK
      - 🍏 An appearance of peace

🍏 Just like (2 Timothy 3:5) “*having a form of godliness but denying it’s power*”

- Why is there no peace apart from Jesus?
- Jesus is the true peacemaker, and He doesn't just whitewash the dividing wall of hostility but actually destroys it.
  
- Why is that good to me?
  - Why, He’s better than being right
  - So come to Him because:
    - Had no ego
      - 🍏 But makes you and heir
    - Sought no wealth
      - 🍏 But makes you rich
    - Asks for nothing
      - 🍏 Then empowers you to obey rooted in love not fear
    - Jesus is saying, “I am peace in the midst of conflict.”
      - 🍏 Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I’ll give you rest.
      - 🍏 Not rest from conflict but rest for your soul
  - Have you ever just read through a gospel to listen to what He is saying to you?
  - (Hebrews 12:3) “*Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.*”
    - Consider
    - **διαλογίζομαι<sup>a</sup>; διαλογισμός<sup>a</sup>, οὐ μ; ἀναλογίζομαι**: to think or reason with thoroughness and completeness – repetition <sup>5</sup>
    - Hapax
  
- It is either God’s glory our yours, and...
  - Jesus is most glorified in you when He is more precious to you than all that life can give — and all that death can take. – John Piper

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<sup>5</sup> Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 350). New York: United Bible Societies.