

# Matthew 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

## Analysis

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This beatitude states 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God' (Greek: εἰρηνοποιοί, 'peacemakers'). Peacemakers actively create peace (ποιέω, to make or do), not merely avoid conflict. They reflect God's character as the ultimate peacemaker who reconciles humanity to Himself through Christ. 'They shall be called children of God' (υἱοὶ θεοῦ κληθήσονται) indicates both recognition and reality - they will be identified as bearing family resemblance to the Father. This goes beyond passive pacifism to active reconciliation ministry.

## Historical Context

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In Roman-occupied Palestine, 'peace' (pax Romana) meant military domination. Jesus redefines peace as shalom - wholeness, reconciliation, and right relationships. Jewish messianic expectations often included violent overthrow of Rome, but Jesus' kingdom operates through reconciliation, not revolution. Peacemaking would be costly in this volatile political climate, requiring courage to stand against both zealot violence and oppressive power.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What is the difference between peacekeeping (avoiding conflict) and peacemaking (creating reconciliation)?
2. How does actively pursuing reconciliation demonstrate that we are children of God?
3. In what relationships or situations is God calling you to be a peacemaker?

## Interlinear Text

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Μακάριοι οἱ εἰρηνοποιοί· ὅτι αὐτοὶ υἱοὶ θεοῦ  
**Blessed** G3107 **are the peacemakers** G1518 **for** G3754 **they** G846 **the children** G5207 **of God** G2316  
G3588

κληθήσονται  
**shall be called**  
G2564

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 12:14** (Peace): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

**Romans 12:18** (Peace): If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

**Galatians 5:22** (Peace): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

**Psalms 120:6** (Peace): My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace.

**Romans 8:14** (References God): For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

**Luke 6:35** (Parallel theme): But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

**2 Corinthians 13:11** (Peace): Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

**Colossians 3:13** (Parallel theme): Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

**Psalms 34:12** (Parallel theme): What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

**Matthew 5:48** (Parallel theme): Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

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