

A Warriors Guide to Life's Battles

Peacemaker 1 Samuel 14 - 15

2 Samuel 7 : 1 Psalm 133 : 1- 2

Most nations, after a civil war, take years to heal the wounds and bring unity. However, in the case of Israel during Davids time, very quickly after his ascension to the throne the nation is at peace and living in harmony.

We all desire for genuine peace in our homes, our workplace, our extended family and our church. Conflict in personal relationship brings so much stress in life but genuine unity and harmony brings so much relief and joy.

Q : What does unity and harmony at home, the office, or the church look and feel like to you?

2 Samuel 5 : 1 - 5 Matthew 5 : 9

Of course, a genuine restoration and peace after conflict doesn't just happen. It takes someone who is a peacemaker. David reached out to the generals on the opposing side, he sought to restore the assets and honour to Saul's family, and he affirmed the tribes that had gone against him. David was a peacemaker. Jesus told us that one of the greatest gauges of spiritual maturity is the quality of being a peacemaker.

Q : What motivated or enabled David to see that restorative justice was more important than vengeance?

Q : Why does Jesus say that the attribute of being a "peacemaker" is a key sign of spiritual maturity?

*We must always check ourselves when facing strife to see whether we are a _____,
_____, or _____.*

2 Samuel 11 : 3 James 4 : 1 - 2 If you are act out as a _____ you will _____.

One of the biggest outcomes of walking in the flesh, aside from affecting our relationship with God, is that it negatively affects relationships rather than building up relationships.

Q. Why do we so quickly forget, in the midst of tensions in relationships, that behaving badly actually makes things worse than better? Why is it so hard to move beyond being self focused to long term focused?

2 Samuel 13 : 21 & 37 - 39 If you play the role of a _____ it will mitigate conflict but _____ .

After his fall David struggled to regain the moral imperative in his life. As a result, rather than actively resolving conflict he just hoped things would work themselves out amongst his family. The results were disastrous.

Q. What is the difference between "settling things down" and "resolving the issue"? What is the difference in the amount of emotional energy, time, and risk between the two?

2 Samuel 9 : 1 2 Cor 5 : 18 If you are a _____ then you are _____ to resolve conflict.

Being a peacemaker is not an act or a role. It is part of our DNA that is given to us by Jesus. Our natural, redeemed state, is to resolve conflict, give justice and mercy, and work towards true unity and harmony.

Q. How do you handle the deep desire for genuine harmony and peace and the reality that many situations will take time and hard work? What "gifts" have been given us that enable us to succeed as peacemakers?

THIS WEEKS PRAYER FOCUS

A church of Unity and Community

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17

A church filled with the breath of God

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3

A church strong in the word

25 Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5

A church where our people are effective in sharing the good news where ever they are

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9

A church where people are released into their ministries and gifting

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Ephesians 5 : 11 - 13

A church of healing for the spirit, soul, and body

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Luke 4

A church of young people (children, youth, young adults)

*"Then, after doing all those things,
I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream dreams,
and your young men will see visions.*

Joel 2 : 28

A church where the ministers are anointed and flowing in their gifting.

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Ephesians 5 : 11 - 13