
How can I be happy if I don't take sides?

"Blessed are the peacemakers."

Matthew 5:9



Who really wants to be a peacemaker anyway? A peacemaker in a marriage is usually the one who has to swallow his or her pride. Who wants to say, "You're right, and I'm wrong," to keep the peace in a marriage? A peacemaker amongst neighbors is the one who has to rake more, shovel more, and put up with more. Who really wants to do that to keep the peace between neighbors? To be a peacemaker can be a headache!

And yet, Jesus attaches the blessing of happiness to those who are peacemakers. Jesus can say that from his own experience. He was happy to bring peace to this world. After all, he is the Prince of Peace. This title rightfully

describes Jesus because he made peace between God and all the people of the world.

Talk about a headache! It wasn't easy. He had to resist temptation, he had to resist the urge to strike back, he had to put others first, he had to go the extra mile, he had to suffer, and ultimately he had to die. But all of his sacrifices were necessary to establish peace between his Father and the world. Jesus was a successful peacemaker, and he was happy to do it. And you can be happy that he did it too!

To be a peacemaker is not easy. It wasn't for Jesus, and it won't be for you either. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker between quarreling siblings. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker between angry neighbors. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker in a contentious marriage. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker when grudges are involved. It isn't easy to be the peacemaker when that involves saying, "I'm sorry." But Jesus never said it was going to be easy. He did say, though, that he will bless your peacemaking efforts. Just take one glance at all of the blessings attached to Jesus' peacemaking—forgiveness, joy, and peace just to name a few.

How can I be happy if I don't take sides? That's the point. True happiness comes when you do take a side—God's side. To be a peacemaker is to be a reflection of Jesus. To be a peacemaker is to take to the world the peace that Jesus has brought to you. And there is no greater joy than that!