

The Priority of Peacemaking

1 Thessalonians 5:13b-24

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Live in peace with one another.

We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances.

But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:13b-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,
without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

Main Point

God gave His Son to reconcile us to Himself, thus making peace; and He has given us the ministry of reconciliation, commanding us to make peacemaking a priority.

The Priority of Peacemaking

Why must peacemaking be our priority?



1 Thessalonians 5:13b

Live in peace with one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:13b

Be at peace with one another.

The Priority of Peacemaking

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

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2 Corinthians 5:17-19

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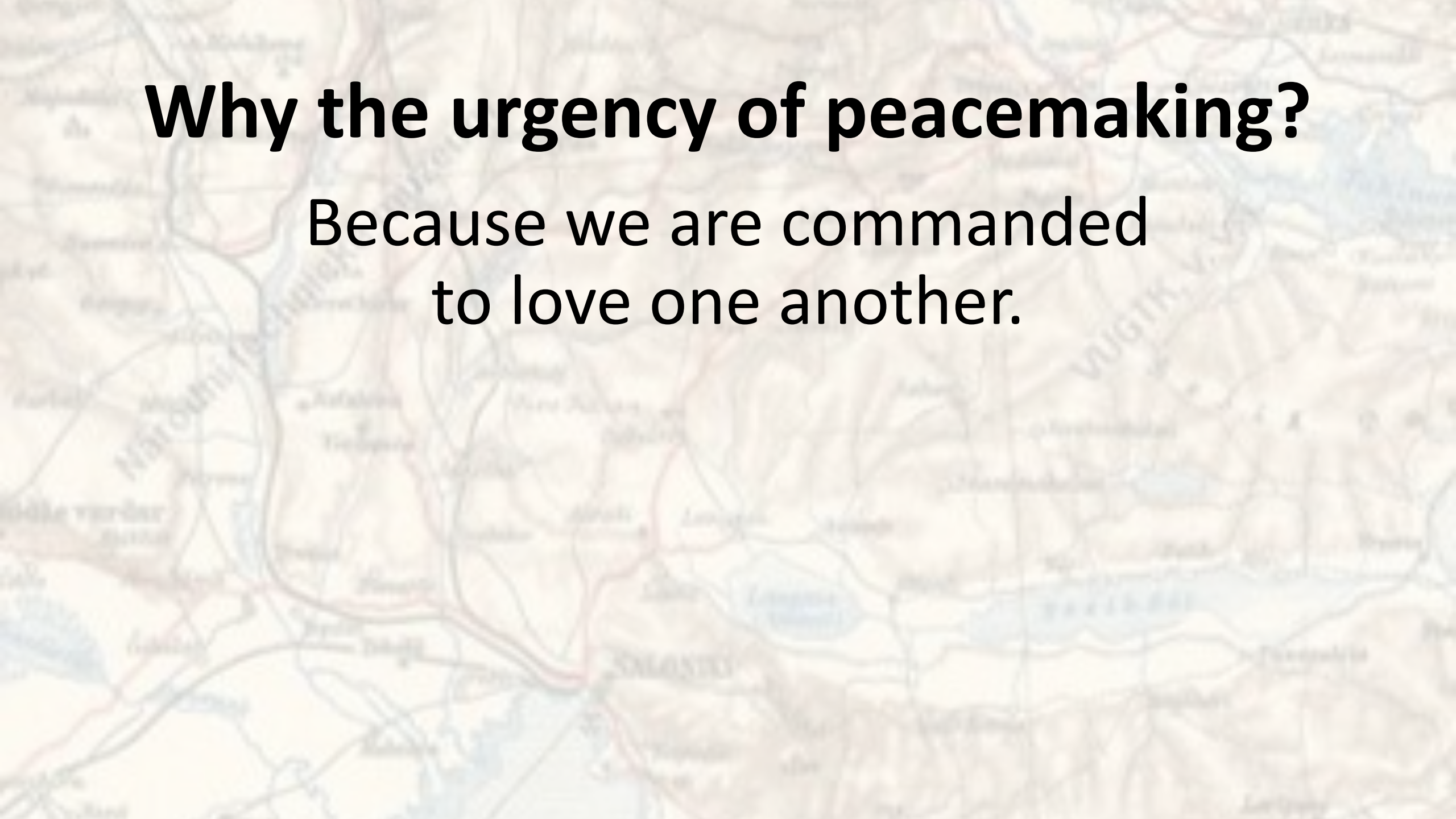
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and **He has committed to us the word
of reconciliation.**



Why the urgency of peacemaking?

Because we are commanded
to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Now as to the love of the brethren,
you have no need for anyone to write to you,
for you yourselves are taught by God
to love one another.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 15:17

This I command you, that you love one another.

1 John 4:11

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

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Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted,
forgiving each other **just as God
in Christ also has forgiven you.**

To love others is to maintain a disposition of grace toward them, an eagerness to forgive that results in a commitment to pursue peace even when it is difficult or scary.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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***making haste* to preserve the unity
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Why the urgency of peacemaking?

Because we are commanded to love one another.

**Because our love for one another testifies
to the glory and power of Christ.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely...

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Now **may the God of peace** Himself **sanctify you** entirely...

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you have been called... **making haste** to preserve
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

A love for one another that goes in hot pursuit of peace is a “good work” that glorifies our Father and testifies to the power of Christ in us.

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before men
in such a way that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

John 13:35

“**By this** all men will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.”

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The Priority of Peacemaking

Why must peacemaking be our priority?

What is the foundation of our peace
with one another?

1 Thessalonians 5:13b

Live in peace with one another.

A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Balkans, showing a network of roads and rivers. The map is light-colored with brown and blue tones. The text is overlaid on the map.

What is the Foundation of Our Peace?

God's peacemaking work toward us.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the **God of peace** Himself sanctify you entirely...

2 Thessalonians 1:2

Grace to you and **peace from God** the Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

What is this peace from God?

Romans 5:1 and 6

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Romans 5:1 and 6

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**For while we were still helpless,
at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.**

Matthew 5:9

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

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

The peacemakers are called
sons of God because God made
peace with us through His Son.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore, **be imitators of God** as beloved children,
and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you
and gave Himself up for us.

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What is the Foundation of Our Peace?

God's peacemaking work toward us.

Our covenantal bond with one another.

1 Thessalonians 1:3-4

“...bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you...

1 Thessalonians 4:9

Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.

1 Thessalonians 1:3-4

“...bearing in mind **your** work of faith and **labor of love**
and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ
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Now **as to the love of the brethren,**
you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you
yourselves are taught by God to **love one another.**

Our bond with one another is not merely a personal choice each of us made, as if we chose ourselves to be in God's family; He has chosen us, and He has bound us together in Christ.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Therefore...make haste to preserve the unity of the
Spirit
in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Therefore...make haste to preserve the unity of the Spirit

in **the bond** of peace.

The Priority of Peacemaking

Why must peacemaking be our priority?

What is the foundation of our peace with one another?

**What is the nature of the peace
we are to make?**

1 Thessalonians 5:13b

Live in **peace** with one another.

What is this peace?

A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Balkans, showing a network of rivers and terrain contours. The map is light-colored with blue lines for water and brown lines for elevation. The text is overlaid on the map.

What is this peace?

It is sincere reconciliation.

It is reconciliation...

Acts 7:26

On the following day he appeared to them as they were fighting together, and **he tried to reconcile them in peace**, saying, “Men, you are brethren, why do you injure one another?”

It is reconciliation...

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

It is reconciliation...

Matthew 5:23-24

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before

the altar and go; **first be reconciled** to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

It is *sincere* reconciliation...

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Now all these things are from God,
who reconciled us to Himself through Christ...
and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely,
that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting their trespasses against them,
and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

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and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

God's reconciliation resulted in peace between us.

What kind of peace is this?

It is peace from *sincere* reconciliation...

It is peace from forgiveness granted!

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who reconciled us to Himself through Christ...

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It is *sincere reconciliation*...

Ephesians 2:4-7

Because of His great love with which He loved us...

God...raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

It is *sincere reconciliation*...

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in the ages to come **He might show** the surpassing riches

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What is this peace?

It is sincere reconciliation.

It is fruit of the indwelling Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

But **the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, **peace**, patience,
kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

1 Thessalonians 5:13b and 19

Live in peace with one another.

Do not quench the Spirit.

To quench the Spirit is to smother the enlightening, empowering flame of truth by neglect or disregard or ingratitude.

1 Thessalonians 5:15-19

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not quench the Spirit.

If we do not want to quench the Spirit,
we must be willing to pursue peace.

The Priority of Peacemaking

Why must peacemaking be our priority?

What is the foundation of our peace with one another?

What is the nature of the peace we are to make?

How do we make peace in the church?



How Do We Make Peace?

By glad obedience to God's Word.

1 Thessalonians 5:13b-15

Live in peace with one another...

See that no one repays another with evil for evil,
but always seek after that which is good
for one another and for all people.

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Live in peace with one another...

See that no one repays another with evil for evil,

but always **seek after that which is good**
for one another and for all people.

Matthew 5:9

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

But how do we make peace?

Matthew 5:12

Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

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Matthew 18:15

If your brother sins (against you), go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

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How Do We Make Peace?

By abstaining from evil and holding fast to what is good.

By committing ourselves
to the work of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

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that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,
not counting their trespasses against them,

and **He has committed to us the word
of reconciliation.**

If God reconciled us to Himself and entrusted to us the message of reconciliation, ought we not commit ourselves to passionately pursue peace with one another?

Conclusion

Are you at peace with God?

Do you understand the nature of the peace
Christ has achieved for you?

Are you willing to go in hot pursuit of peace
no matter how hard or uncomfortable
the work of peacemaking may be?