

The Law of Peace

Matthew 5:23-26

1. The principle of peace.
 - a. The heart of God is for peace.

 - b. Peace is a matter of the heart.

2. The practice of peace.
 - a. Be reconciled to your brother.

 - b. Make friends with your opponent.

3. The priority of peace.
 - c. Peace must take priority over your duties of worship.

 - d. Peace must take priority over your self-vindication.

**BE DIFFERENT
LIVE DIFFERENT**

Matthew 5-7



ID



The Law of Peace

Matthew 5:23-26



Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:21-26

²¹ You have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not commit murder” and “Whoever commits murder will be guilty before the court.”

Matthew 5:21-26

²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, “Idiot,” will be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, “You scoundral,” will be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Matthew 5:21-26

²³ Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Matthew 5:21-26

²⁵ Make friends quickly with your opponent while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

²⁶ Truly I say to you, you will not come out of there until you have paid up the last cent.

The Principle of

Peace

The Practice of

Peace

The Priority of

Peace

The Principle of

*P*eace

A decorative flourish consisting of several overlapping loops and swirls, rendered in a light gray color, positioned below the word "Peace".

Matthew 5:21 and 23

You have heard that the ancients were told, “You shall not commit murder...
...Therefore if you are presenting your offering...

Jesus is still teaching from the 6th commandment.

The Principle of Peace

The heart of God is for peace.

Peace is a matter of the heart.

The Principle of Peace

The heart of God is for peace.

Peace is a matter of the heart.

Exodus 20:13

"You shall not murder."

God's prohibition of murder flows out of His nature and character of peace.

Murder is the most visible violation of the law of peace.

Matthew 5:23-26

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.

Matthew 5:23-26

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.

*Reconciliation is the full
restoration of peace.*

***It is the flip side
of murder.***

God's heart of peace...

Romans 15:33

Now the **God of peace** be with you all.

Romans 16:20

And the **God of peace** will soon crush
Satan under your feet.

Philippians 4:9

...and the **God of peace** will be with you.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

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

Hebrews 13:20-21

Now the **God of peace**...equip you in every good thing
to do His will...

The Principle of Peace

The heart of God is for peace.

Peace is a matter of the heart.

The Principle of Peace

The heart of God is for peace.

Peace is a matter of the heart.

Jesus' teaching focused on the heart.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart...

Matthew 5:28

Everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 9:4

Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?

Matthew 12:34

For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

Matthew 5:23-26

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.

*Surely the reconciliation that
Jesus commands would be that
which comes from the heart.*

***Be careful you don't take
a Pharisees' approach
to reconciliation!***

The Practice of

*P*eace

A decorative flourish consisting of several overlapping, swirling lines in a light gray color, positioned below the word "Peace".

The Practice of Peace

Be reconciled to your brother.

**Make friends with
your opponent.**

The Practice of Peace

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Matthew 5:23-26

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.

Matthew 5:23-26

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.

Matthew 5:23-26

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.

*When you love peace,
YOU will pursue reconciliation
no matter who has the issue.*

The Practice of Peace

Be reconciled to your brother.

Make friends with
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The Practice of Peace

Be reconciled to your brother.

**Make friends with
your opponent.**

Matthew 5:25

Make friends quickly with your opponent while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Matthew 5:25

Make friends quickly **with your opponent**

while you are with him on the way,
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Make friends quickly with your opponent
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officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Who is your opponent?

Proverbs 6:1-5

¹ My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, Have given a pledge for a stranger,

² If you have been snared with the words of your mouth, Have been caught with the words of your mouth,

Proverbs 6:1-5

³ Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself;
Since you have come into the hand
of your neighbor, Go, humble yourself,
and plead urgently with your neighbor.

⁴ Give no sleep to your eyes,
Nor slumber to your eyelids;

⁵ Deliver yourself like a gazelle from
the hunters' hand, And like a bird from
the hand of the fowler.

The Priority of

*P*eace

A decorative flourish consisting of several overlapping, swirling lines in a light gray color, positioned below the word "Peace".

The Priority of Peace

**Peace must take precedence
over your duties of worship.**

**Peace must take precedence
over your desire for
self-vindication.**

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Matthew 5:23-26

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.

*Jesus clearly makes the
pursuit of peace the
priority over the duty to
bring offerings.*

*The God of peace will not
receive overtures of love
from those openly rebelling
against Him.*

The God of peace will not receive overtures of love from those openly rebelling against Him.

*pursuit of peace the
priority over the duty to
bring offerings.*

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Matthew 5:25

Make friends quickly with your opponent while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Why do you suppose a person would rather risk judgment than to work things out with someone who has a claim against him?

Self-vindicating motivations...

Selfishness

Entitlement

Pride

Proverbs 6:3

Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself;

Since you have come into the hand
of your neighbor, Go, humble yourself,
and plead urgently with your neighbor.

Proverbs 6:3

Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself;

Since you have come into the hand

of your neighbor, **Go, humble yourself,**

and plead urgently with your neighbor.

*Why would you not choose
rather to be wronged than to
risk the judgment of God.*

***Don't miss the urgency
of Jesus' words!***

Matthew 5:25

Make friends quickly with your opponent while you are with him on the way, so that your opponent may not hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Matthew 5:25

Make friends **quickly** with your opponent
while you are with him on the way,
so that your opponent may not hand you
over to the judge, and the judge to the
officer, and you be thrown into prison.

Luke 13:24-25

Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. Once the head of the house gets up and shuts the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock on the door, saying, "Lord, open up to us!" then He will answer and say to you, "I do not know where you are from."

**God has reached
out His hand of
peace to you.
Will you take it
and follow Him?**

