



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
THE SERMON ON THE
MOUNT 7

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called children of God.
(Mt 5:9)**

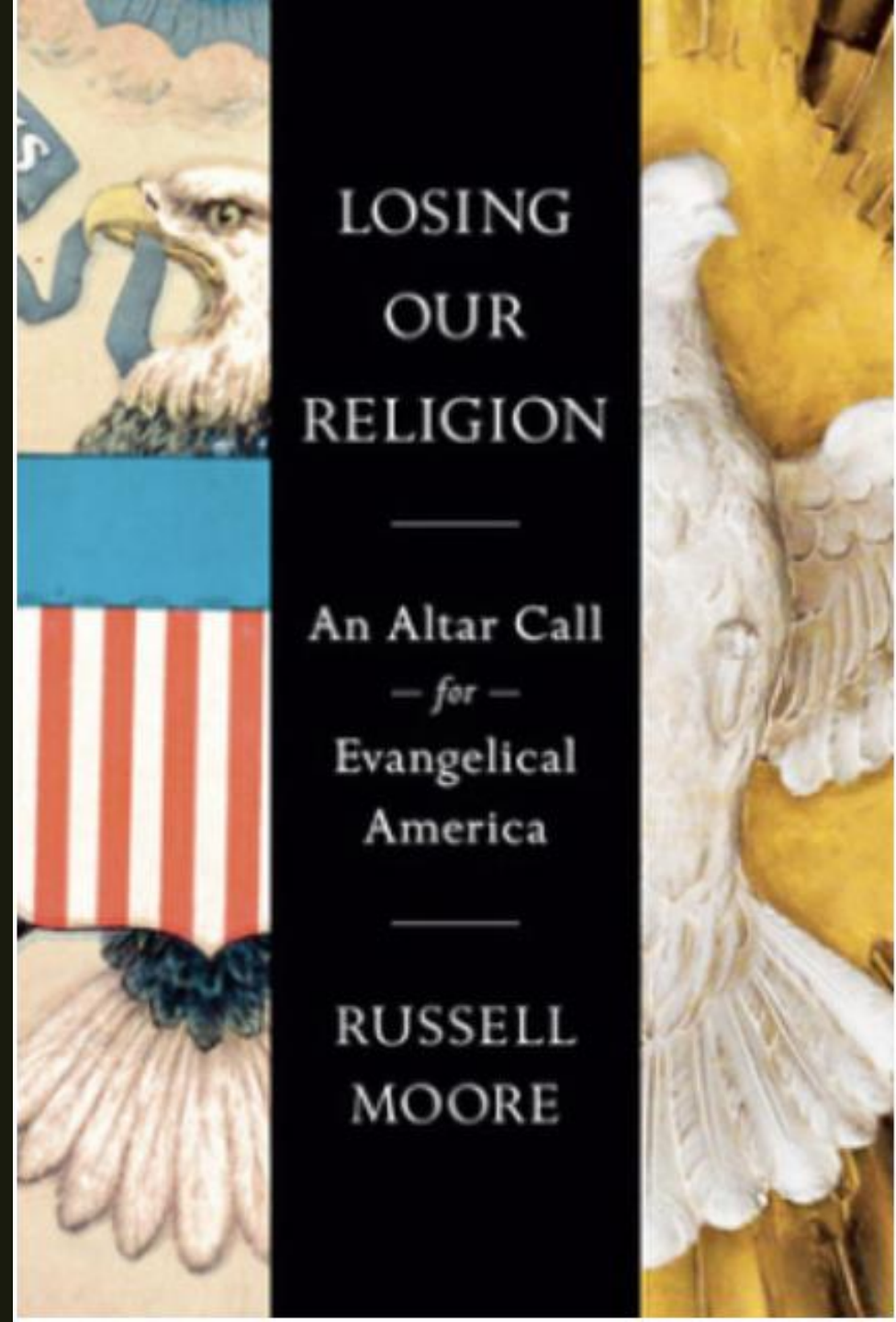


Initial Questions

- Why does *peace* need to be made.?
- What is a *peacemaker*?
- What does mean to *be called a child of God*?
- Who is doing the *calling*?
- Anything else?

Peacemakers

- Original hearers: “Blessed are the peace-makers”
- Response: You’re crazy.
- It was the result of having multiple pastors tell me, essentially, the same story about quoting the Sermon on the Mount, parenthetically, in their preaching — “turn the other cheek” — [and] to have someone come up after to say, “Where did you get those liberal talking points?” And what was alarming to me is that in most of these scenarios, when the pastor would say, “I’m literally quoting Jesus Christ,” the response would not be, “I apologize.” The response would be, “Yes, but that doesn’t work anymore. That’s weak.” And when we get to the point where the teachings of Jesus himself are seen as subversive to us, then we’re in a crisis. (Russell Moore)
- Peacemaking is a radical and counter-cultural idea!



Why does peace need to be made?

- Sin in the world affects relationships. [selfishness, hatred, slander, malice, deceit, envy, strife, arrogance, boasting, lack of mercy, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions].
- Mis-communication (Tower of Babel).
- *I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.*” (Job 3:26)



Shalom - Isa 26:3

- ❑ We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in **perfect peace** those whose minds are steadfast, because they **trust** in you. (Isa 26:2-4)
- ❑ More crazy talk – open the gates?
- ❑ Trusting God’s ways leads to peace

Finding Perfect Peace... ⌂) click

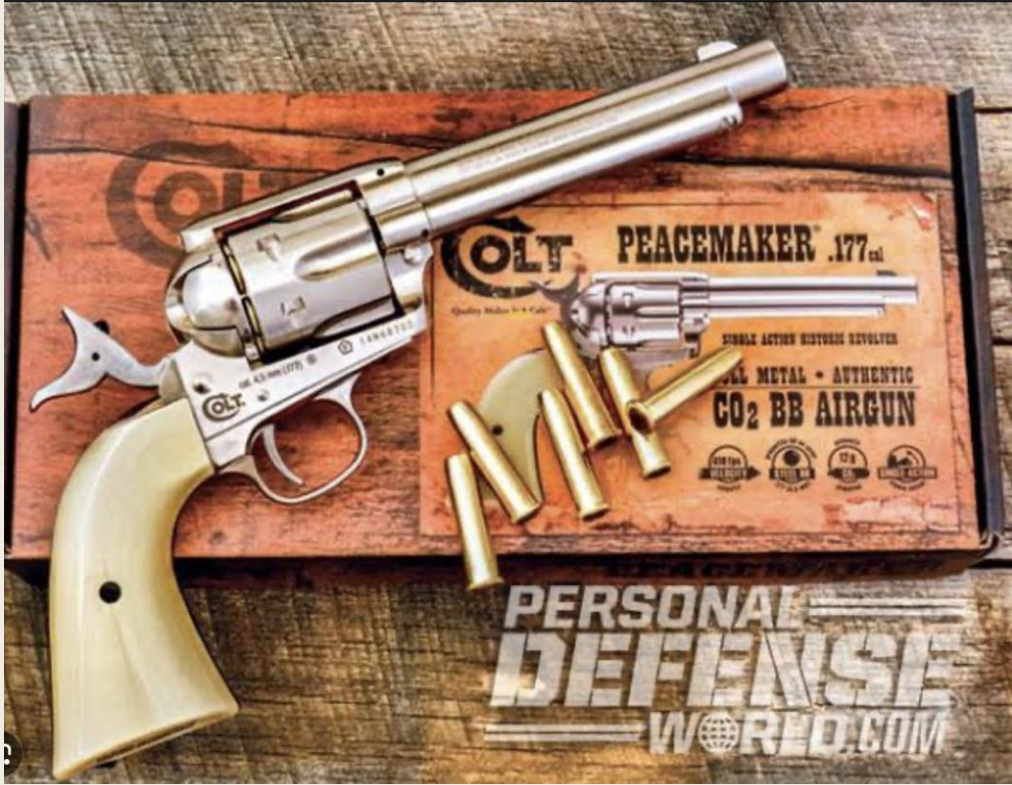
בְּטוֹחַ	בְּךָ	כִּי	שְׁלוֹם	שְׁלוֹם	תִּצְרֶה	סְמוּךְ	יֵצֵר
ba-too'-ach	ve-kha'	kee'	sha-lom'	sha-lom'	tee-tzor'	sa-mookh'	ye-tzer
בְּטוֹחַ -pass participle; ms abs "confident" ft> בְּטוֹחַ -v "trust, yield, let go, rely"	בְּ - pfx; "in, at, with" טְ - sfx 2ms	כִּי - conj "for, because that"	שְׁלוֹם - n ms abs. <i>ibid</i> "peace, wholeness, well-being, health, "etc.	שְׁלוֹם - n ms abs. "peace, wholeness, well-being, health, "etc. ft> שְׁלוֹם	תִּצְרֶה - v "guard, keep, watch, form" qal impf 2ms	סְמוּךְ - v "lean on, rest, focus, uphold" qal pass part ms סְמוּכָה - n semikha: "laying on of hands"	יֵצֵר - n n ms "will, desire, purpose, intent, mind"
he trusts	in you	for	peace	peace [of]	you will keep [in]	one focused [on you]	the will [of]
				"perfect peace"			

"You will keep in perfect peace the one who focuses on you, because he trusts in you." (Isa 26:3)

יֵצֵר סְמוּךְ תִּצְרֶה שְׁלוֹם שְׁלוֹם
כִּי בְךָ בְטוֹחַ

ἀντιλαμβανόμενος ἀληθείας καὶ φυλάσσω εἰρήνην ὅτι ἐπὶ σοὶ (LXX)

hebrew4christians.com



Two approaches to
peace-making...

- Which one is Jesus advocating for his followers?
- What are the core differences?
- How is the approach different?

The Tale of Two Kingdoms: Empire v. Shalom

Empire

Way of the Stick



Shalom

Way of the voice



<https://www.bemadiscipleship.com/18>

<http://makingtalmidim.blogspot.com/2013/08/a-tale-of-two-kingdoms-empire-v-shalom.html>



Peacemakers in the Bible

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Peacemakers who **sow in peace **reap** a harvest of righteousness (Jas. 3:17-18)**

- What do we get from the “sowing” and “reaping” metaphor?
- Deliberate action/ takes time / No results at the beginning.
- The end result (harvest) is much greater than the initial action (sowing seeds).
- Jesus used sowing and reaping quite often in his teaching.
- Link between “wisdom” and “peace-making”. How does this work?
- But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity. (Ps 37:11)

Peacemaking



The story of the Bible is:

Chaos + God => Peace (Eden)

Fallen world + Jesus Follower => Peace

Peacemaking

- Now peacemaking is a divine work. For **peace means reconciliation**, and God is the author of peace and of reconciliation. Indeed, the very same verb which is used in this Beatitude of us is applied by the apostle Paul to what God has done through Christ. Through Christ God was pleased 'to reconcile to himself all things . . . making peace through his blood, shed on the cross'. And Christ's purpose was to '**create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace**'. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the particular blessing which attaches to peacemakers is that they will be called children of God. For **they are seeking to do what their Father has done**, loving people with his love, as Jesus is soon to make explicit. [Stott]
- What is Stott saying, and do you agree with him?
- Peacemaking as a divine work of reconciliation.

Called children of God.

- Peacemakers are blessed because they will be called “sons of God”—not “children of God,” as in the King James Version. The difference is slight, but significant. **In Jewish thought, “son” often bears the meaning “partaker of the character of,” or the like.** If someone calls you the “son of a dog,” this is not an aspersion on your parents, but on you: you partake of the character of a dog. Thus, “son of God” may have a different connotation than “child of God.” Both expressions can refer to some sort of filial relationship; but the former has more emphasis on character than position. (Carson)
- Being in a new kind of family. Born of God (Jn 1:13)
- If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do what Abraham did. (Jn 8:30-47)

But what about this?

- **Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth.** I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household. (Mt 10:34-36)
- So, Jesus, which is it? Peace, or sword? How to approach this?
- May have to modify our idea of peace to bring it line with Jesus’ idea of peace.
- The gospel brings peace with God but can create enemies on earth.
- Jesus is saying that allegiance to him is core to discipleship, even if it creates division with others. Look at what happened to Jesus!
- The family example drives home the point for his followers.
- Jesus goes on later to teach how to treat those enemies.

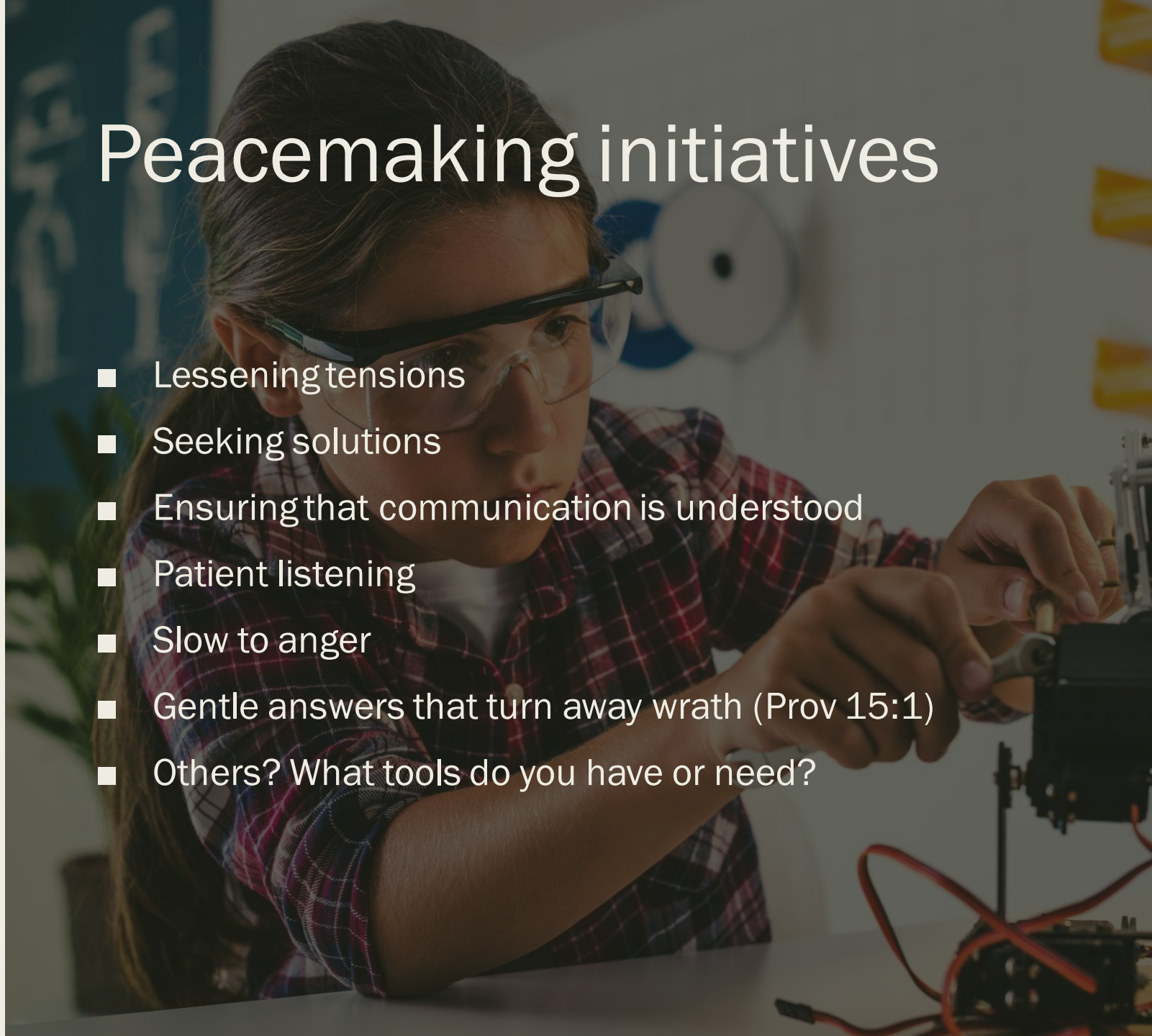
NT Living

- Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Heb 12:14)
- If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Rom 12:14)
- Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. (1 Pet 3:10-11).
 - *A lot to do with the tongue : gossip, false witness, deceitful speech, slander*
- We are talking about living a life that intentionally and deliberately seeks to establish peace in our relationships, as far as it is possible from our side.
- But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity. (Ps 37:11) sound familiar?



Peacemaking initiatives

- Lessening tensions
- Seeking solutions
- Ensuring that communication is understood
- Patient listening
- Slow to anger
- Gentle answers that turn away wrath (Prov 15:1)
- Others? What tools do you have or need?



Personal Sharing

1. Share a situation you have been in that you saw peace-making at work. How did that feel?
2. What does it take to be a peace-maker? What would that look like for me? What could be my initiatives?
3. How do I see peace-making fitting in with following Jesus?
4. What is the difference between peace-making and people-pleasing or being nice to people?
5. What about “I did not come to bring peace but a sword?”

What Jesus is promising:

The one who finds the way to overcome the strife caused by sin, will remind others of God's restorative ways.

In your own words

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for
they will be called children of God.**

How would you say it in your own words?



Reflection

- Do I see Biblical peace-making as being counter-cultural?
- Are there some situations I personally need to address to make peace?
- Would people be reminded of Jesus by the way I handle conflict?
- Does “I did not come to bring peace but a sword” sit comfortably with me?