

## BEING A PEACEMAKER

How can we be peacemakers? A few relevant Biblical principles can help us:

- 1) **Keep in mind our purposes to Glorify God in all that we do** (I Cor 10:31), **to be Salt and Light** (Matthew 5:13-16), **His Witnesses** (Acts 1:8), **His Ambassadors** (2 Cor 5:20) **and Disciple Makers** (Matthew 28:18-20).
- 2) **Choose to be a peacemaker – be intentional. Realize God wants us to be peacemakers and will bless us when we are.** (Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God”; Romans 12:18 “It is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone”; Romans 14:19 “Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification”; Hebrews 12:14 “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy”; James 3:18 “Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness”).
- 3) **Love others, even those that appear to be our “enemies”.** (Matthew 22:29 “Love your neighbor”; Luke 6:27-36 “Love your enemies...”; for a study of the characteristics of Biblical love refer to I Cor 13:1-13 and the Parable of Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37). **Jesus wants his followers to be known for our love** (John 13:34-35).
- 4) **Be self-controlled. Avoid adding fuel to the fire with divisive verbal comments and social media posts. Be filled with the Holy Spirit and His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control** (Gal 5:22-23; Proverbs 11:12, 13:3, 15:1,15:28, 25:28, 29:11).
- 5) **Practice the Golden Rule. Proactively treat people positively like we like to be treated** (Matthew 7:12).
- 6) **Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry** (James 1:19-20).
- 7) **When we do speak truth, do so with love and grace** (Eph 4:15; Col 4:6).
- 8) **PRAY! We should pray persistently** (Luke 11:5-13, 18:1-8) **and continually** (I Thes 5:17). We can follow the PUSH approach – Pray Until Something Happens.