

Welcome to Family Worship Day! Today our BC Kids join us to see how we do “Big Church.”

Last week we started this series called “Bless This Home” and we looked at “Blessed are the Homes that Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness.” Today we decided to move “Blessed are the Pure in Heart” until next Sunday because today, on Family Worship Sunday, we want to talk about being **Peacemakers** in our homes.

And we have a special guest to help me,. Let’s welcome Valarie Padgett, our Believing Kids Children’s Minister. Valarie works with Brandi Mercer, who directs PromiseLand, and together they are doing an excellent job helping us at Believers to partner together with parents to raise Godly children.

Peace quenchers in the homes today:

- I hear people say, “*Mom’s trying to tell me how to raise kids.*”
- Or “*Our children are always fighting.*”
- Teenagers tell me, “*My parents are controlling.*”
- Peace may flee when blended families and try to raise kids with the ex’s.
- Peace is also quenched when there is a lot of unforgiveness.

Jesus wants us to have peace in our homes, but sometimes that requires some peacemakers. That’s why Jesus said in **Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

I can’t think of a better thing to say or have said about us as a family, than they are “children of God.”

WE ARE NOT JUST A CHRISTIAN FAMILY. WE ARE A CHRIST-CENTERED HOME.

A Christ centered home should experience more peace than a home that simply identifies as Christian. Why? Because a Christ centered home is going to be centered around Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

Next Step: I will ask myself, “Judging by the peace in our home, or the lack of peace, how Christ centered is our home?” What do we need to do to center our home around Jesus and enjoy His peace?

PEACEMAKERS NOT PEACEKEEPERS

- **PEACEKEEPERS OFTEN AVOID CONFLICT TO KEEP THE PEACE.**

- Why can’t we all just try to get along? So, let’s avoid each other, which results in a family not being close, but distant.
- When there’s a disagreement they declare a truce, until later when there’s an explosion.

I don’t think Jesus is just talking about families that just try to have peace by keeping their mouths shut and not rocking the boat. No. I believe Jesus wants our families to experience some form of peace that’s more than just the absence of trouble.

I believe Jesus is talking about seeking the highest good for our families and each family member truly sensing God’s peace. A peace that is different than what the world gives.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- **PEACEMAKERS EMBRACE CONFLICT TO MAKE PEACE.**

A Christ-centered home isn't a conflict-free family. There will always be issues to deal with.

Romans 12:17-18, 21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

WHAT CAN OUR FAMILIES DO TO BE PEACEMAKERS?

1) SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

Ephesians 4:15 NLT ...Speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ.

Sometimes we speak the truth but it's not in love. Or doesn't sound like it's in love.

- *"You always leave your clothes laying around you lazy bum!"*
- *"Kids shut up! You fight all the time, and you are driving me crazy!"*

There are issues and problems in every family and ignoring the issues don't make them go away.

- We should speak the truth in love during non-conflict times.
- Also be very careful to confront the issue and not the person.
- Avoid absolutes such as, "You always say this or do that, and you always hurt me."

Consider saying things like:

"Sometimes you say things, whether you mean them or not, that cause me to feel hurt."

- *"When you don't listen to me, I don't feel like you value me."*
- *"When you raise your voice, I don't feel safe."*
- *"You may not even notice that you do it, but with our friends, your jabs towards me really hurt."*
- *"When you continue to check your phone at the table I feel devalued."*
- *"When you lie or withhold the truth from me, I feel like it's really hard to trust you."*

2) APOLOGIZE WHEN YOU ARE WRONG.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

- Admit to specific actions and attitudes. No general "I'm sorry's."
- Admit that you were wrong with no excuses or justifications.

"I sorry, I shouldn't have raised my voice at you," is totally different than, "I'm sorry but you made me yell at you because of what you did or said."

Just humbly admit you were wrong.

- *"I'm so sorry, I was totally insensitive."*
- *"I'm sorry, I should've called you and let you know that I would be late getting home."*

Families don't just "say" sorry, but show remorse and repentance.

"I'm sorry for my mistakes and actions. Will you forgive me as I strive to not be that way anymore?"

3) FORGIVE AND LET GO.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

We've all said it or have heard it said by others... *"I can't forgive them"* or *"How do I forgive?"*

I could give you a list of things that families have done to one another, but since the children are with us today I won't. But you generate your own list and you'll find some of those things are just hard to forgive.

Often you have to ACT in Forgiveness, long before you FEEL the forgiveness.

Remembering... **Forgive as the Lord had forgiven you.** How has the Lord forgiven you?

- Completely
- Unconditionally
- Repeatedly
- With grace rather than condemnation.
- And the Lord remembers my transgression no more.

If Jesus has forgiven you, who am I not to forgive you?

Dress Your Family to be Peacemakers. How do peacemakers dress?

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Next Step: This week I commit to being a peacemaker and not just a peacekeeper.

FAMILY IS WORTH THE WORK

Romans 12:18 ... as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

You never look more like children of God than when you forgive and make peace.

As we are being transformed into the image of Jesus, our families are looking more and more like Jesus too! This is our heart and prayer for every family in this church.

At Believers Church, we are partnering together with parents, with families to raise Godly Children.

We are all growing in Christ-likeness together.

We are all becoming more of a Christ Centered Family!