

Pull the Weeds and Plant the Flowers



***“Die when I may,
let it be said that
I always pulled up
a weed and
planted a flower
where I thought a
flower would
grow.”***

Abraham Lincoln




**Jesus praise of
peacemakers
Matthew 5: 9,
*“Blessed are the
peacemakers: for
they shall be called
the children of
God.”***

Jesus Christ

**Peacemakers are
weed pullers & flower-planters.**

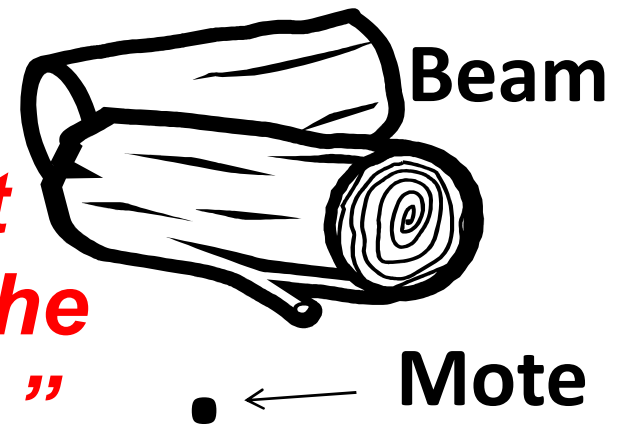
Peacemakers...

Make Peace With God first!

- **Isaiah 26:3-4**, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength”
- **True peace comes from God...**
 - Not from a needle, bottle, or a pills 
 - Not friends, family, fans, or foes (false teachers) 
- **Paul references peace coming from God...**
 - Introduction to **ALL 13** epistles
 - Conclusion of **2 Cor. & 2 Thess.** 

Making Peace With God Requires Making Peace With Self!

- **Matthew 7:3-5**, *“And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”*



Peacemakers...

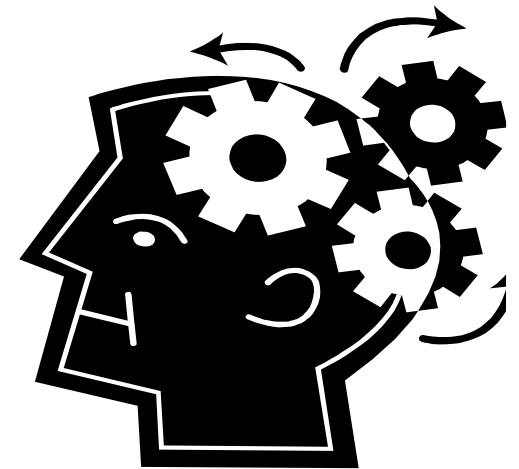
Lead Others to Peace With God

- Acts 10:36-38, “preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all)”
- 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”



Peacemakers ...Part of the Solution, Not Part of the Problem

- **Matthew 5:23-24**, *“if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”*
- **Romans 12:18**, *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men”*
- **Philippians 4:2**, *“I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.”*



Peacemakers ...Part of the Solution, Not Part of the Problem

- Peacemakers

- Colossians 3:14
be with love
we may



offend

always
that
any man"



- Peacemakers are never easily offended

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, “Charity suffereth long,
and is kind; charity envieth not; charity
vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not
behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own,
is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the
truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things,
hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

Peacemakers... Part of the Solution, Not Part of the Problem

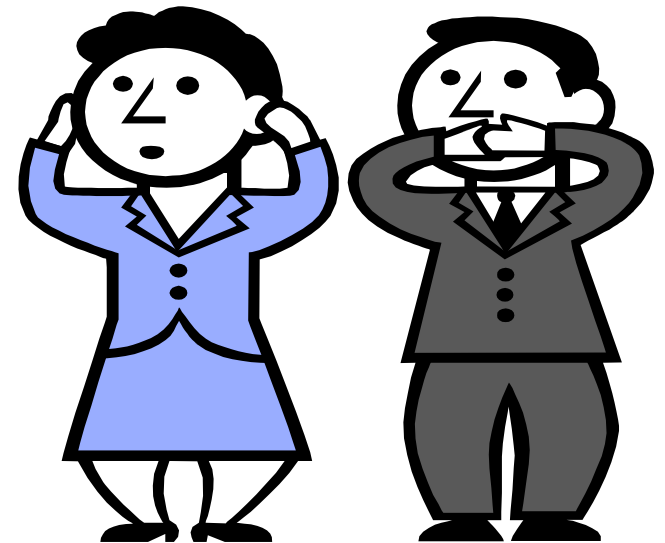
- Peacemakers pull weeds and plant flowers
 - Matthew 6:14-15, “*For IF ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But IF ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*”
 - Matthew 5:44-45, “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; WHY? That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven”



Peacemakers...

Swift to Hear & Slow to Speak

- Peacemaking comes through hard work, and seldom occurs naturally (home, church)
 - James 1:19, “let everyman be swift to hear and slow to speak; slow to wrath”
 - 1 Peter 3:11, “seek peace, and ensue it.”
 - Titus 3:9, “avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.”



Peacemakers...

View Others With Compassion

- **Peacemakers pull weeds & plant flowers**

- Seek good in others, not evil

- NOT, “Why is he like that?”

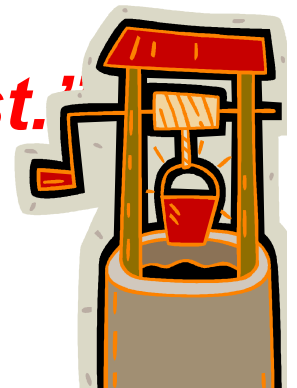
- BUT, “How can I help him/her?”



- **Galatians 6:1-2**, *“if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another’s burdens...fulfil the law of Christ.”*

- **John 4**, The woman at the well

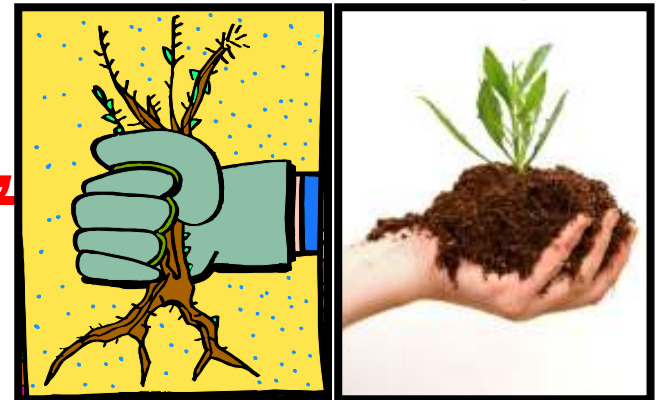
- **John 8**, The women caught in adultery



Peacemakers...

View Others With Compassion

- **2 Timothy 2:24-26**, *“the servant of the Lord must not strive; (quarrel) but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.”*



Peacemakers...

Strive to Keep the Peace

1, Keeping the peace, Acts 6:1-6

- Ethnic grievance arose in the congregation
- Men selected to resolve the matter.
- Problem never heard of again



#2, Keeping the peace, Genesis 26:19-22

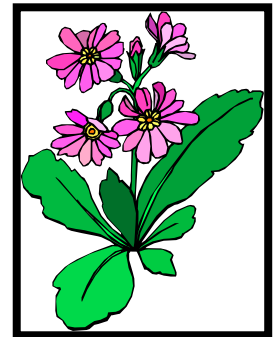
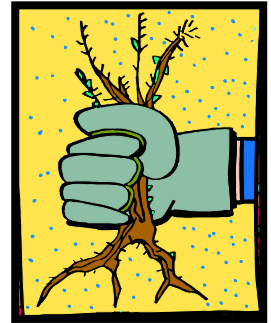
- Isaac moved when Philistines wanted his well
 - Packed his tents, moved, dug another well
- Philistines came the 2nd time, wanted his well
 - Packed again
- Peace was better than war



Blessed are Those Who Pull Weeds and Plant Flowers

• Peacemakers...

- Make peace with God and self first
- Lead others to peace with God
- Part of the solution, not part of the problem
- Swift to hear and slow to speak
- View others with compassion
- Strive to keep the peace



“Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.” Matthew 5:9

Pull the Weeds; Plant the Flowers

