



PEACEMAKERS

Peacemakers: “The Art of Agreeing to Disagree”

November 23 & 24

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: John 4

Series Overview

Jesus taught, “blessed are the peacemakers,” and then He backed this up with teaching after teaching to help us live this out. For the next six weeks, we’ll study and practice the art of peacemaking. We’ll focus on the teachings of Jesus, and our response will be our missional calling into the world.

Series Question

How can you engage in the following four practices of peacemaking this week?

1. Ask anything
2. Listen well
3. Disagree freely
4. Love regardless

Sermon Overview

In a pluralistic culture, we’ve got to get better at agreeing to disagree. This week’s sermon unpacks five practices, five principles Jesus modeled in John 4:

1. Check your ego at the door
2. Identify least common denominators
3. Let your conscience be your guide
4. Don’t be dogmatic about disputable matters
5. Love people when they least expect it

Sermon Questions

Life is full of tensions to manage, as opposed to problems to solve – relationally, politically, emotionally, and spiritually. What is your typical reaction when you do not agree with someone about something? Why do you think that is?

In John 4, Jesus goes through Samaria, not around it. Have you ever had the opportunity to “go around” a tough time, decision, or conversation in your life? Have you ever had the opportunity to “go through” one? Compare and contrast the results.

#1. Check your ego at the door

What might it look like for you to bring humility into a situation with someone with whom you disagree?

#2. Identify least common denominators

How can you focus more on areas of commonality versus areas of difference?

#3. Let your conscience be your guide

“We’ve got to live according to our convictions, and those convictions come from a conscience that is fine-tuned by two things – by Scripture and by the Holy Spirit.” What spiritual disciplines can you put in place in your life in order that Scripture and the Holy Spirit can serve as your compass? What one or two steps can you take this week to do so?

Spend time journaling and praying through the following three questions:

- Are you living according to your conscience or according to culture?
- Who are you more afraid of offending, God or people?
- Would you rather be right or righteous?

#4. Don’t be dogmatic about disputable matters

Ephesians 4:3 says, “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” What might be required of you to “keep the unity of the Spirit” this week?

#5. Love people when they least expect it

“At its core, love is all about taking relational risks.”

What relational risk do you need to take this week?

Practical Application

- Visit ncc.re/baltimore or wearebluprint.org to learn more, partner, or donate to the new church plant and ministry to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in Baltimore under the leadership of Pastor Joshua and Ericka Symonette.

- Visit ncc.re/missionteams to explore and pray about joining one of the 33 mission teams to partner with, learn from, and serve our brothers and sisters around the world.