



# Aspire to Make Peace

Quotes on Peacemaking

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### **Quotes on Peacemaking to stir the heart and mind.**

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.” ~ John F. Kennedy

“Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.” ~ Albert Einstein

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Being a peacemaker is part of being surrendered to God, for God brings peace. We abandon the effort to get our needs met through the destruction of enemies. God comes to us in Christ to make peace with us; and we participate in God's grace as we go to our enemies to make peace.” ~ Glen H. Stassen and David P. Gushee, Kingdom Ethics

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

“The followers of Christ have been called to peace. . . . And they must not only have peace but also make it. And to that end they renounce all violence and tumult. In the cause of Christ nothing is to be gained by such methods. . . . His disciples keep the peace by choosing to endure suffering themselves rather than inflict it on others. They maintain fellowship where others would break it off. They renounce hatred and wrong. In so doing they over-come evil with good, and establish the peace of God in the midst of a world of war and hate.” ~ The Cost of Discipleship

“Peacemaking is a divine work. For peace means reconciliation, and God is the author of peace and of reconciliation. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the particular blessing which attaches to peacemakers is that “they shall be called sons of God.” For they are seeking to do what their Father has done, loving people with his love.” ~ John R. W. Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount

NO ONE has ever been converted by violence. ~ Jim Forest, The Ladder of the Beatitudes

## Quotes on Peacemaking

[MANY CHRISTIANS] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. ... I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere.

"Blessed are the merciful" in a courtroom? "Blessed are the peacemakers" in the Pentagon?

~ Kurt Vonnegut

MAKING PEACE makes us God's children—and kin to each other. ~ Michael H. Crosby, Spirituality of the Beatitudes

THE PEACE intended is not merely that of political and economic stability, as in the Greco-Roman world, but peace in the Old Testament inclusive sense of wholeness, all that constitutes well-being. ... The "peacemakers," therefore, are not simply those who bring peace between two conflicting parties, but those actively at work making peace, bringing about wholeness and well-being among the alienated. ~ Robert A. Guelich, Sermon on the Mount: A Foundation for Understanding

[PEACEMAKERS] are honored insofar as they speak about peace as something already victoriously won that we can celebrate as part of our glorious past or as something that will be won in the other world. They continue to be dishonored insofar as they continue to point out injustice, hypocrisy, and suffering. They are noble when their actions bring to light problems far away from us; they are an odious nuisance when they point out our own sins. ~ Thomas Trzyna, Blessed Are the Pacifists

The background image shows a woman wearing a grey and white patterned headscarf, looking down with a thoughtful or somber expression. In the foreground, a brass pitcher with intricate geometric patterns is being tilted, pouring liquid into a white cup. The scene is set in what appears to be a public or communal space, with other people partially visible in the background.

# Othering to Neighboring

Misunderstanding and conflict between Muslims and Christians is rampant and sadly growing. This is part of today's story but not the entire picture. However, news headlines often feature the bad news, drowning out the many, and I would add predominantly good news stories that I experience every day in my relationships with Muslims. The bad news is often exacerbated by a large megaphone grabbed by those who set fires of misunderstanding and prejudice, "othering" each other as they promote more conflict instead of seeking truth and making peace. Extremists on all sides, in all quarters of the globe seek to hijack the message of faithful adherents who find God calling us to peacemaking instead of living in enmity and fear of each other. Perhaps many just have simple questions of the other faith community, are curious and would like to reach across the divide. But it seems to be posted with a "no trespassing" sign. Many want to trust the good will of others, but have doubts. Let's learn to exchange fear and suspicion for genuine love of our "other".