



You are part of a peace-loving organization whose aim, according to the UN Charter, is “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” You have made a peace-keeping commitment to “unite our strength to maintain international peace and security.” These are noble goals. In fact, these are biblical goals. In the seventh beatitude, Jesus challenges us to an even higher level of involvement, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God.” He did not say, “peace-lovers.” He didn’t even say, “peace-keepers.” “*Blessed are the peacemakers.*”

“Since 1945, there have been 150 armed conflicts recorded. These 150 armed conflicts have claimed approximately 25 to 30 million lives. The death rate does not include the effects of famine and disease that usually follow. To date, humanity has experienced only 26 days without war” (2003 Kuala Lumpur World Peace Conference). Furthermore, according to Jackson, a NATO researcher, “there have been more than five and a half million people killed in 93 wars involving 70 states” between 1990 and 1995 during the so-called Hot Peace that followed the end of the Cold War. “*Blessed are the peacemakers.*”

Peacemaking involves intellectual understanding of complex issues. It involves volitional choices that could be sacrificial on a personal or national level. And, as the UN is doing with the Alliance of Civilizations, it must take into account the religious issues. With over 300 references to peace in the Bible, *peacemaking is essential Christianity*. Five times the Bible describes God as the “God of Peace.” Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace.” The “Gospel of Peace” breaks down numerous barriers, allowing you to “love God,” “love yourself,” “love your neighbor,” even “love your enemy.” “*Blessed are the peacemakers.*”

Ken Sande is an attorney. He is also a peacemaker and suggests using the 4 G’s ([www.peacemaker.net](http://www.peacemaker.net)):

- *Glorify God*: How can I please and honor God through conflict?
- *Get the log out of your own eye*: How have I contributed to this conflict and what do I need to do to resolve it?
- *Go and show your brother his fault*: How can I help others to understand how they have contributed to this conflict?
- *Go and be reconciled*. How can I demonstrate forgiveness and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?

Christian Embassy agrees with Dag Hammarskjöld who said, “The pursuit of peace and progress, with its trials and its errors, its successes and its setbacks, can never be relaxed and never abandoned.” Furthermore, “We believe that the worthy goals of global peace and security, and respect for human dignity are affirmed in the teachings of Jesus and anchored in a reverence for God.” “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*”

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1. If God is the “God of Peace,” why are there wars? (1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:1-4)
  
  2. Was Jesus a peacemaker?  
John 2:13-17; Luke 19:41-46; Matthew 10:34-39  
Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 5:23-24
  
  3. In what ways did Jesus make peace? (Colossians 1:19-22; Ephesians 2:11-22)  
Who are the principle actors? What is the conflict? How was peace made? What were the results?
  
  4. How can *you* be a peacemaker? (Matthew 5:43-47; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 14:19; The 4 G’s)

*“For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.... His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace.”*  
(Ephesians 2:14-15)