Peacemakers

Matt. 5:9

Intro. A. Our text pronounces a Divine blessing upon that rare type - the peacemaker.

B. Rare because it seems a universal mark of man's depravity that he loves strife and violence.

1. Interested spectators at a fight.
2. Rush to fire or wreck.
3. Rage to see conflict simulated.
4. Agitators in every business, club, community.
5. Loves reports of domestic strife.

C. Text does not define the area of conflict in which peacemaker is at work.

1. Aid troubled soul or an individual.
2. Make domestic peace (not twisted curiosity of busybody)
3. Peace in a divided church.
4. Peace in troubled world.

D. Fix our attention on the church, divided in its witness, confusing self and world.

1. Chr. church arose in 1809 as white flag of truce, call for peace. Not at any price. 2 principles: N.T. and stress universals. But love above all.
2. New spirit abroad now. Be neutral on any subject; hold nothing firmly. Unity on what don't believe. No.

E. Seek to draw from life and thought of Paul, a peacemakers principles still valid in quest for christian unity.

I Respect the Freedom of Each Person as He Stands Before God.

A. Full of dangers it seems.
B. But he is condemned or justified by his Master not by us. Rom. 14:1-6

II Areas of Differences Must Not be allowed to Blind Us the Many Areas of Agreement.
A. Gal. 1. - Paul and Peter shake hands though go in different directions in ministry.
B. Recently reminded a brother that we became christians same way.

III Christian Fellowship not Based on Agreement but on Love, out of which Agreement Comes.
A. Would not eat meat if violated brother.
B. No congregation enjoys unity by agreement.

IV Division Cannot be Considered a Divine Instrument for Maintaining Purity of Doctrine.
A. In spite of Judges problems, no advice to split. 2 & 1 Cor. 15.
B. "Come out and be separate" wrongly used on 6 it to bless every rent in body of Christ.

V So Long as There is Division, No Part of Body can claim to be the Whole.
A. 1 Cor. 1 - "Is Christ divided"?
B. 2d - Mormon elders admitted me a Christian yet taught otherwise. Problem.

VI Where Custom and Tradition Have Sanctified Division, Continue to Cultivate Christian Friendship.
A. Acts 15. "Moses preached in every city."
B. Never condemned for loving anyone, but only for refusal.

VII In Areas Not Essential to Pursuit of Chr. Life, Be Guided by Desire for Unity and Peace
A. Paul shaved head.
B. Paul in tangle for sake of peace.

Concl- A. Where begin this great work?
B. Know this as reason for your congregation's existence and witness to it.
C. But first, as B. W. Stone said, Work of union begins within self.