

Ministers:  
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley  
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Sunday:  
8:00 AM: WGCY  
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:  
6:30 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof  
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

**This Past Week:**  
Worship-27  
Wednesday-14

**For meditation:**  
**Ecclesiastes 10.8-10**  
Various endeavors  
come with different  
risks. Identify three  
risks from these vers-  
es, along with the ca-  
lamity that can result if  
we act foolishly.

**Radio program:**  
WGCY FM, 106.3  
Sundays at 8 AM

## *Three levels of peacemaking*

**Matthew 5.9**

The first six beatitudes describe a quality of character or being, but peacemaking involves the quality of doing/acting.

War, enmity, quarrels, conflict, and fighting are the norm, not the exception, for humanity. Given the pervasive hostility, to be engaged in extending an olive branch is a noble thing. Here are three Biblical levels on we can be a peacemaker.

### **LEVEL ONE**

The job of a mediator is to bridge the gap and reconcile alienated parties. Marriage counselors serve in this role. The business world is filled with professional mediators who work to bring management and labor together.

And Matthew 18.16 speaks of a mediatorial role we might play in reconciling two brothers who have fallen out with each other. Abigail (1 Sam. 25) and Paul (Philemon) should be studied to see how they acted as mediators.

### **LEVEL TWO**

Don't give offense. Peacemaking is usually unnecessary when peacekeeping is a priority; better to sweat in peace than bleed in war. Not giving offense is an act of peacemaking. It's also an act of love—love does not behave rudely" (1 Cor. 13.5).

### **LEVEL THREE**

Don't take offense. People shouldn't have to walk on eggshells around us. They shouldn't have to spend a half hour thinking before they speak, lest they say something that sets us off. "Love suffers long, is kind, is not provoked" (1 Cor. 13.4,5).

Peacemakers are *called* sons of God, for peacemaking is something in which a son of God ought to be engaged.

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# Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

*found in my reading . . .*

**A lady's comment to the English preacher Charles Spurgeon after hearing that Christ came to save sinners.**

**“Ah, Mr. Spurgeon, if Jesus Christ does save me, He'll never hear the last of it.”**

**“Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” Luke 17.17**

Sermon: Matthew 5.10-12

**When pain is a blessing**

3 May 2026

## *A great text from Micah*

*He delights in mercy.* Micah 7.18

“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgressions? . . . because He delights in mercy.” The question asked is rhetorical and the answer to it is: “No one!” No one and no thing shows mercy like God does. Nature doesn’t. Flaunt the law of gravity by jumping off the roof and see how forgiving it is; “mercy” is not found in the vocabulary of nature. And of course, there are sins we can commit for which folk never quite forgive us and will always look down on us. But what is impossible to nature and men is blessedly possible to God.

1 Timothy 1.11 is a remarkable in its description of God: “According to the glorious gospel of the *blessed God* which was committed to my trust.” Men can think hard and unworthy things of God. He’s thought of as a hanging judge who’s just waiting for us to slip up so He can throw the book at us. He’s viewed as disconnected from us, an eternal force, inflexible and punctilious in His demand for obedience.

But Paul calls God “blessed,” which is the word used repeatedly in the beatitudes to describe those who have kingdom virtue (Matt. 5.3–12). It’s the word the Greeks used to describe the *happiness* of the Olympian gods. That Paul uses it of God tells us the God we serve isn’t morose, dour, or melancholic, but happy. And as Micah shows us, one of the things that gives the Father great happiness is to show mercy to His children.

God doesn’t resent forgiving us, He’s eager to forgive. He doesn’t berate us for the trouble we cause Him before forgiving us, He delights in forgiveness. Writes my friend Jim McGuigan. “He’s thrilled with our return to him. He wants me to tell you that he takes a delight in being merciful. You don’t have to approach him shielding your head in case he destroys you with one almighty backhand . . . A broken son runs home to Father and the Father greets him with a kiss, a robe, a ring, shoes, a feast, and a joyful smile. All that is in Luke 15!” (*God of the Towel*, 33).

There is power among men when a man simply and really believes in Him who is Lord of this world—forgiving us seventy times seven, intent on completing the good work He started in us—who has come to save us from our sins, happy and smiling all the while He is doing so.

Who, indeed, is a God like that?

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## *What gives faith its value?*

“Trust in the Lord and do good” Psalm 37.3

*There’s no intrinsic value in faith;* it is the object of faith that gives faith its value. We trust a skilled surgeon; but to put faith in a medicine man’s elixir is foolishness. If you need to fly somewhere and you board a plane missing an engine, that has holes in the rudder and a flat tire, that isn’t faith, it’s foolishness because the object of your faith is worthless. Strongly believing in the reliability of a medicine man or a plane that’s falling apart doesn’t negate the worthlessness of the man or the machine.

In any battle of ideas, the victory must go to the one backed by the facts. When facts don’t count, absurdity results. If reality doesn’t count, we might as well join the group in Lewis Carroll’s poem who went looking for the snark with a blank map.

And remember that just because a man is great man doesn’t mean we build our life on him. John the Baptist was a great man, but I’ve never heard anyone suggest that we should worship John as our savior. A Hindu once said of a certain guru, “Although I admired him, I could not give him my heart.” There’s many we might admire, but only One is a sure foundation. Apart from facts, men have no anchorage for their faith. We give our heart to the One whose claims are grounded in reality.

*Faith demands a worthy object.* David didn’t say, “Trust,” but, “Trust in the Lord.” Christ is the only founder of a religion who provides men a historically factual anchorage for their faith. Putting faith in any other religious leader is to make shipwreck of your life. Christ alone comes with the degree of historical certainty and authority we need. Because of this, we can bring before Him our actions, motives, and thinking for correction, criticism, and course direction.

*Faith demands a workable outcome.* “Do good.” Trust/faith is a settled conviction that believes in the God revealed by Jesus Christ. Trust/faith is the conviction that Christ is able to deliver us from our sins and recreate us in the image of God. Believing this, we surrender our entire being into His hands and make our body available to Him to do His work. Works not preceded by faith are dead, and faith not followed by works is dead (Jas. 2). Doing good completes our faith; good works are how our faith grows up (Jas. 2.22).

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