HB ESSEC ?

The Peace of God

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Matthew 5:7-8

Mercy is the action, Purity is the reaction

"Then the righteous (pure) will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' Matthew 25:37-39

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' vs 40

"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**

Step 1-Poor in Spirit, Salvation

Step 2-Mourn/Comfort, Reaction

Step 3-Meek/Inherit, Direction

Step 4-Hunger/Righteous, Growth

Step 5-Mercy/Purity, Mission

"In the end, reconciliation is a spiritual process, which requires more than just a legal framework. It has to happen in the hearts and minds of people."

Nelson Mandela

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

There's something about being a peacemaker that God considers to be an accurate and suitable representation of himself

The Greek word for "peacemaker" is eirenopoios. Matthew 5:8 is the only place in the entire Bible - OT and NT where you'll find the word.

"The peacemaker of whom Christ refers is not one who settles disagreements and disputes of others. This beatitude is a passage on reconciliation and sonship to God and involves the Biblical premise of peace with God." Rick Calvert

You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. James 4:4

Jesus is not a peacemaker, He IS peace

"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Matthew 10:34

For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man's enemies will be the members of his own household." vs 35-36

"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me" vs 37-38

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, Ephesians 2:14

Names were important in the ancient world. Allowing someone to take your name for themselves showed trust that that person would uphold your honour and name, and not blemish it or profane it. Hence the reason for the third commandment against taking the LORD's name in vain. There's meaning in a name that must be respected.

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Galatians 4:4-5 (Romans 8:15, 23, 9:4, Ephesians 1:5)

It is not with any exaggeration to say that the central theme of the Gospel is adoption

In the Roman law and culture of the first century A.D. an affluent but childless adult who wanted an heir would adopt a post-pubescent male, often a slave, to be his son.

Parents expected children to bring both honour and longevity to the family name. Children inherited the wealth of their parents and also received the full effects of the family name, honour, responsibilities, traditions, and position.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

To be a child of God was to speak for God, represent God in this world

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! 1 John 3:1

It is a blessing to help others find peace with their Creator by showing them what authentic relationship with God looks like. These people are worthy to be called children of their heavenly Father

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 2 Corinthians 5:18

that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. vs 19

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. vs 20