



## Designed to be peacemakers

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Reprinted from the August 30, 2010 issue of the *Christian Science Sentinel*.

Whether it's in Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, Somalia, or some other part of the world, war needs to be seen as no longer a solution among nations and peoples. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." While violence cannot be ignored, it's important to seek ways to engage in conflict resolution other than resorting to the battlefield.

Peace is increasingly possible if we are willing to do the hard work of changing thought—starting with ourselves—from one of resignation to conflict, to achieving peace among nations and peoples. Jesus' teachings offer much guidance. In his Sermon on the Mount, he said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9). That statement deserves to be considered deeply and carefully. What does it mean to be a peacemaker?

Mary Baker Eddy's discovery of Christian Science reveals that we are all the children of God, and thus are all created to be peacemakers. Through her writings, she presented a method of prayer we can follow for individual action toward peace. She stated: "The First Commandment in the Hebrew Decalogue—'Thou shalt have no other gods before me'—obeyed, is sufficient to still all strife. God is the divine Mind. Hence the sequence: Had all peoples one Mind, peace would reign" (*The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany*, p. 279).

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***I prayed to find peace between us.***  
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We can start by confronting the underlying beliefs: that the world is made up of many warring minds, that the desire to dominate others or to prove one is right is more powerful than the willingness to forgive and to live peaceably. If we are all of one Father, as Jesus taught, we have one infinite Mind whose purpose is harmony and love. Since God is not at war with Himself, neither are His children.

To prove this on an individual basis requires that we detect and remove war in our thoughts. We can begin by asking ourselves how much patience, faith, and persistence we are giving to harmony and peace in our own lives and also in our concept of world affairs. Are we being peacemakers in the workplace, home, or in the family? Or are we eager to push ahead toward self-justified conflict?

At one point in my career, I was assigned a new manager who made my life miserable, demanding reports and explanations at every step of the work. Every time I answered one concern, there was another review and delay. Finally, determined to seek a solution, I asked for a meeting. And I prayed to find peace between us.

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***It also helps us be more willing to listen to all sides, and to learn about the broader context regarding other peoples and nations.***  
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At this same time, I had an irritating rash on my arms. When I contacted a Christian Science practitioner to help me pray about the rash, I also told him about the conflict and the upcoming meeting. He asked me to think about giving up my personal sense of authority in this business matter. So when I met with the manager, I humbly requested that we move forward on the project together, and offered assistance in any area where I could be more helpful. He explained that he knew I was an authority in this part of the project and he was afraid because of his

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lack of expertise; that was why he was maintaining such tight control. Once this was revealed, the difficulty with the project just disappeared. This change coincided with the rash on my arms disappearing within a few days. It was an example to me of how being a peacemaker has a calming, healing effect in all areas of our lives.

Taking steps toward peace helps us utilize the power of good to uncover whatever needs to be seen in order to end conflict and restore harmony. This doesn't require us to figure out what is wrong, or to fear anyone. Rather, we rely on Jesus' teaching to love God, our neighbors, and also our "enemies." Spiritual intuition leads us toward a Truth-based perspective. It also helps us be more willing to listen to all sides, and to learn about the broader context regarding other peoples and nations.

Seeing this broader view of peacemaking removes the old story that there must be a winner and a loser—that the contest of "who shall be greatest" must go on and on. Jesus released humanity from the belief that evil, sinful, warring demands and acts must continue. They have no place in God's spiritual creation or in anyone, because we are all the children of one Father.

It is possible to prove that peace is inherent in everyone's character. And as we individually practice these truths, there will be greater patience, more forgiveness, and ultimately peace that does not require war to achieve.

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### Peacemakers:

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### Science and Health:

45:16 (only)

### King James Bible:

Matt. 5:9

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