

# Merciful, Pure, Peace

## 5:7-9

### Verse 7

**Q: What is mercy?** Not receiving what we deserve (justice) when the authority over us otherwise has the power to punish.

**Q: What makes us merciless, so unlikely to offer mercy?** High expectations (unrealistic expectations, personal expectations, pride, position (expected obedience), lack of patience, regard for truth, justice, fairness, not wanting to seem weak)

**Q: Why blessed are the merciful then? Why is this characteristic being shown in us a priority to God?** He is, in this life, far more merciful than merciless. We “get what we deserve” far less in this life than could. If God was always just and without mercy we wouldn’t last very long.

**Q: How is our ability to understand and show mercy a mirror of our understanding ourselves and God?** To some degree our ability and wisdom in showing mercy mirrors how we see God show mercy to us.

**Q: Is this a fair statement: The more merciless we are to others the less we understand of our own sin before God?**

**Q: How do we know when to show mercy without sacrificing our hold on truth and justice?** The Holy Spirit

### Verse 8

**Q: Blessed are the pure in heart, what does that mean?** pure = holiness, heart = ? (inner life, intention, source of desire, center of the physical and spiritual life)

**Q: What does God say about our heart?** Gen 6:5, Gen 8:21, Jer 17:9, Job 15:14-16

**Q: Who has a pure heart? How can we have a pure heart?** Be changed, renewed Ps 51:10, Ezek 36:25-27, Heb 10:19-22, 2 Cor 5:21,

**Q: What is the blessing of a pure heart?** Seeing God. **What does that mean?** Hearing the voice of God. Less separation. He 12:14. The more holy, the closer we get. The closer our communion the closer we come to the garden of Eden, to God’s original purpose.

### Verse 9

**Q: What do we mean by peace?** Reconciliation. Coming to a place we can move forward from. In the best case scenario bitterness, offense and disagreement disappear. (Eng: to agree, Greek: one, rest “eirene”)

**Q: What is the opposite of peace?** war, anxiety, frustration, tension, animosity

**Q: What brings on a lack of peace?** Being wronged, offended, misunderstood, unresolved situations and hurt feelings.

**Q: Peacemakers are sons of God, Jesus was THE son of God. How was He a peacemaker? What did He do? Scriptures?** He satisfied the demands of the offended party. Colossians 1:19-21, Ephesians 2:11-18, Romans 5:1

**Q: So, what was His position in the situation?** The go between, the mediator. Reaching out is required, effort. Peace is not cheap.

**Q: What was His attitude?** Humility, service, perseverance, determination. Being honest about what it will take to come together

**Q: So how do we become peacemakers? As a way of life?** Find common ground. Make restitution. Find a path to forgiveness. Meet situations with truth and humility.

**Q: Can you have peace without both parties being involved?** No

**Q: What if we can’t make peace?** Romans 12:18 - as far as it depends on you. Leave it be. Yet, perseverance is foremost initially.