

## Shalom – A Word Study.

אֲשֶׁרֵי עָשִׂי שְׁלוֹם, כִּי בְנֵי־אֱלֹהִים יִקְרָאוּ: ﴿1﴾

ash·rei o·sei sha·lom, ki be·nei·e·lo·him yi·ka·re·u

μακάριοι οἱ εἰρηνοποιοὶ ὅτι αὐτοὶ υἱοὶ θεοῦ κληθήσονται.

"O the blessedness of the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."  
Matthew 5:9

The Hebrew word *shalom* means "wholeness," "completeness," "healing" -- not merely the absence of strife. *Shalom* implies the positive enjoyment of God and "pleasures forevermore." In Jewish ethical teaching, *redifat shalom* (רְדִיפַת שְׁלוֹם), "seeking peace," is considered a primary heart quality. Rabbi Hillel is attributed as saying, "Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace" (Pirke Avot 1:2).

The entire life of Jesus is marked by peace. He is called *Sar Shalom*, the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). God is called *El Shalom*, the God of Peace (Rom. 15:33, Heb. 13:20, etc.), and salvation itself brings reconciliation (peace) between God and man (Rom. 5:1).

So important is this idea of reconciliation, that Jesus states that those who "make peace" will be called the sons of God. Peacemakers are one with the Father. The world bestows its honors upon those who are war-makers and who routinely exercise the specious "will to power." But "the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18). Jesus promised that those who regularly practice/make *shalom* will be called "children of the living God" - *bonei el chai* (בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים). Those who seek peace by loving their enemies are doing as the Father does, and therefore they are demonstrating that they are His children (Matt. 5:44-45).