

## Peace Catalyst Manifesto

In a world rife with conflict, we resolve to follow the peaceable ways of Jesus the Messiah. God's true children work for peace.<sup>1</sup> We confess we have often overlooked the biblical mandate to pursue peace. Sometimes, we have shared the tenets of our faith without exhibiting the character of its founder. Thus, by the grace of God, we commit ourselves to peacemaking – to resolve conflict and restore harmony as God commands. We commit ourselves anew to this mandate within our homes, across our religious communities, throughout our spheres of influence, and among the nations of the world.

Conflict and prejudice have affected all our relationships and every dimension of our lives. For this reason, God's plan for the lives of his people is to produce comprehensive reconciliation.<sup>2</sup> This includes reconciliation with God; racial, class and gender reconciliation; and reconciliation to the entire creation. Thus, we resolve to pursue multi-dimensional reconciliation – peace in all relationships and in all spheres of life.

We recognize that peacemaking is not always the same as reconciliation. Peacemaking refers to loving initiatives that seek to break down barriers and overcome hostility between people or peoples, whether or not there is reconciliation. But reconciliation is the ultimate goal of all peacemaking.

As peacemakers, we recognize that we are bearers of *shalom*, the ancient biblical concept that encompasses peace, welfare, health, prosperity, and human flourishing.<sup>3</sup> *Shalom* highlights the multi-dimensional nature of true peace, which includes the spiritual, relational, economic, and environmental dimensions of life. Thus, we resolve to pursue peace holistically.

We will seek to find fellow peacemakers to start reconciling communities (we also call these “communities of reconciliation”). As members of a reconciling community, we promise to follow these eight pillars of reconciliation:

1. We will pray for peace (2 Thess 3:16; 1 Tim 2:1-2).
2. We will make every effort to be at peace with all people (Rom 12:18; Eph 4:3; Heb 12:14).
3. We will take responsibility for our part in conflict. We will take the log out of our own eyes as Jesus taught (Matt 7:3-5).
4. We will lovingly challenge or reprove those who sin (Matt 5:23-24; Matt 18:15; Gal 6:1).
5. We will accept reproof (Prov 12:1, 15:31, 19:20).
6. We will ask for forgiveness when we sin and when we are reprovved (Luke 15:17:3-4).
7. We will forgive those who sin against us (Matt 6:14-15; Matt 18:35).
8. We will love our enemies (Matt 5:44-45; Luke 6:27-36).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_