

# 55: STRONG MEN DON'T NEED THE LAST WORD

By John Leavy

In Week 11: Discipleship in Relationships

4 Min read



*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” — Matthew 5:9*

Few things expose a man’s character faster than conflict. It can start with a disagreement at home, tension at work, a debate online, or a misunderstanding with a friend. The details may change, but the temptation is always the same: prove your point, defend your position, and make sure everyone knows you’re right.

What often goes unsaid is that many arguments stop being about truth long before they end. They become battles for control, pride, and validation. At that point, winning matters more than understanding, and being right matters more than preserving the relationship.

Anyone who has spent time on a trail knows that reaching the destination together is more important than proving who was right about the map. When someone takes a wrong turn, the goal is not assigning blame. The goal is getting back on course and continuing the

journey. Yet many men approach relationships differently. They would rather stand victorious in an argument than walk forward in unity.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). Notice He did not say peacekeepers. Peacemakers step into difficult situations and help move people toward reconciliation. What often goes unsaid is that this requires tremendous strength.

Anyone can escalate a conflict. Anyone can fire back with a sharp response. Anyone can keep score, rehearse offenses, or demand the last word. It takes a stronger man to lower his voice, guard his tongue, and choose a response that moves the conversation toward peace.

Many men mistake restraint for weakness. Scripture presents it as strength under control. The strongest man in the room is often not the loudest or the most convincing. It is the man who could keep fighting but chooses not to. He values reconciliation over recognition. He cares more about restoring the relationship than protecting his ego.

That kind of strength is increasingly rare. It is also one of the clearest reflections of Christ a man can display.

## **APPLICATION**

What often goes unsaid is that the need to have the last word is rarely about the conversation itself. More often, it is about pride. We want to be understood. We want to be validated. We want the other person to acknowledge that we were right. Those desires may seem harmless, but they can quietly take control of a man's heart and become obstacles to peace.

The problem is that pride always demands one more response. One more text. One more comment. One more explanation. One more opportunity to prove a point. Before long, the goal is no longer resolution. The goal is winning.

Jesus never asked His followers to abandon truth. He never compromised what was right. But He also demonstrated that not every accusation required a defense and not every disagreement deserved an argument. There is a wisdom that knows when speaking serves the situation and when silence serves it better.

Anyone who has spent time on a trail understands this. When a group faces a difficult stretch of terrain, a good trail guide stays focused on the destination. He listens. He evaluates. He makes decisions that keep the group moving forward. His purpose is not proving that he knows more than everyone else. His purpose is helping people reach the end of the journey together.

Relationships require that same mindset.

Before sending the message, making the comment, or continuing the debate, stop and ask a simple question: Am I pursuing peace, or am I protecting my pride? That question has a way of exposing what is really driving the conversation.

Peacemaking is not passive. It takes humility to let go of an offense. It takes courage to absorb a criticism without striking back. It takes self-control to leave a point unmade and a response unsent.

What often goes unsaid is that strong men do not always need the last word. They understand that preserving a relationship is often more valuable than winning an argument. They know that peace is not weakness. It is strength under control, surrendered to Christ.

## **LIVE IT OUT**

This week, resist the urge to have the final word in a disagreement. Listen longer. Respond less. Ask yourself whether peace or pride is driving your reaction. Look for one opportunity to protect a relationship instead of defending your position. Strong men know when winning is not worth the cost.

## ***PRAY THIS...***

***“Lord, that I would resist having the last word in disagreements and that I would listen longer.”***

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***Information lays the foundation—  
Practice builds the man.***

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