

WELCOME

Please mute your devices to avoid a disruption during worship.

Peace With All Men

Ricky Jenkins
(Abridged)

In Romans 12:18, Paul implies that peace may not always be possible, but it must always be pursued. "As much as depends on you," means doing everything within your power to preserve peace. We are not to originate quarrels or stir up trouble over matters of little importance. We are to seek peace, though its success does not always depend on us.

Neither Paul nor Jesus found it possible to live peaceably with everyone. Paul frequently spoke of those who sought to harm him (2 Cor. 11:24-26). He referred to fighting wild beasts in Ephesus and warned that "Alexander...did me much harm" (2 Tim. 4:14). Likewise, Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers and warned His disciples, "If the world hates Me, it will hate you" (John 15:18). Yet neither Jesus nor Paul went looking for conflict. When strife arose, it was because others stirred it, not them.

Christians are to be peace-loving people. We are commanded to "seek peace" (1 Pet. 3:11) and pursue it (2 Tim. 2:22). Peace is not optional; it stands alongside faith, love, and righteousness. Still, there are times when others refuse to live peaceably, forcing us to contend for truth and what is right.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9). Notice He did not say, "Blessed are those who enjoy peace," but those who make peace. Peacemaking assumes a situation where peace does not exist. At its heart, the Lord had in mind peace with God.

How, then, do we live peaceably? We cannot live at peace with others until we are at peace with God. "Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God" (Rom. 5:1). Peace is found in salvation, which is found in Christ. Through His blood is reconciliation (Eph. 2:13-14). There is no peace with God apart from Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Titus 3:2 provides practical instruction. These qualities belong together. Peace is promoted when we refuse to speak evil of others, when we are gentle, and when we practice humility.

Notice that being peaceable is linked to speaking evil of no one. How often is peace shattered by a careless word? Thoughtless comment can create lasting conflict. Then consider gentleness. Harsh words and actions inflame tensions, while gentleness diffuses them. Humility helps preserve peace; Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it is choosing to serve others. In doing so, we imitate God Himself (Matt. 5:45).

Sadly, even with these virtues, it is not always possible to live peaceably with all men. When peace is broken, we must ensure that we are not the cause. Sometimes a battle must be fought to preserve truth, but there is a difference between contending for the faith and being contentious. Contentious people simply enjoy conflict, stir controversy, destroy unity, and leave others suspicious and divided. Fighting for truth becomes merely an excuse to fight.

Ephesians 4:1-3 describes the attitudes necessary for unity: humility, patience, and forbearance. The call to peace is not symbolic; it is a genuine command. The angels announced, "peace on earth" at Christ's birth, and the prophets called Him the "Prince of Peace." Those who follow Jesus must reflect that spirit. This does not mean sacrificing truth for harmony, but it does mean making peace a high priority in every relationship.

"Pursue peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14). Peace is not merely the absence of trouble; it is the result of a transformed heart. It requires effort, discipline, and dependence upon Christ. The fruit is worth it (Jas. 3:17). The church will be stronger, our homes healthier, and our lives richer. Christ provides the peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:7). Since we can only control our own conduct, let us make certain that we are pursuing peace.

Announcements:

Prayer List

- Long-term health issues:
 - Rob Canon
 - Mandy White
- Teresa Canon: Recovering from an infection related to her surgery.
- Brian Escobar: Being treated for lung cancer.
- Lily and Family: Grieving the loss of her father due to cancer.
- Mike Grimes: Still battling his recent health issues.
- Doris Fields: Suffering from a shingles outbreak but seeing signs of improvement.

Traveling/Away

- Nico Azaroff: Deployed with his unit. Due to return toward the end of the year.

Upcoming Events

- Men's Breakfast: July 25 @ 8:30AM, Golden Corral

Morning Worship Assignments

Opening Prayer- David Chavez
Scripture Reading- Connor Wright
Sermon- Joe Wright
Closing Prayer- Devan Wright
Song Leader- Earl Shumaker

Evening Worship Assignments

Song Leader- Devan Wright
Closing Prayer- Lucio Estrada

Key Scripture: "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."

-Romans 12:18



ABOUT US

We seek to follow the teachings of the Bible, which is the only source to find doctrine. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News, which is, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and has presented himself as the perfect sacrifice by willingly going to the cross to take away our sins.

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Bible Study 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 PM

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