

Romans 12:18; 14:19

“Pursuing Peace”

I. Romans 12:18 – *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”*

A. How do we live peaceably with all men?

1) Personal choice & responsibility – “...as much as depends on you...” Rom. 14:19 – “...let us pursue the things which make for peace...”

a) Choosing to live at peace with “*all*” people includes those who don’t make the same choice = one of the greatest challenges in living peacefully: some have no interest = “***IF IT IS POSSIBLE***”.

i) We have a distorted interpretation of what is possible – Jer. 32:27; Matt. 19:26; Phil. 4:13 (v.1-12).

ii) We deem peace unattainable with certain people.

iii) We put the responsibility of peace on other people.

b) Often times the possibility & responsibility of peace falls squarely on us, which reveals why there’s no peace: *Sometimes we’re the one who doesn’t desire to live peacefully*. Do we truly desire/crave peace? – Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 3:15; James 3:18.

i) What do we want more than peace?

1) Justification/vindication – defended or excused

2) Restitution/vengeance – compensated; balanced scales

3) Acknowledgement/acceptance – opinions & emotions

aa.) *All major deterrents to peace!!!* – Rom.

12:17-21

c) Other facets of personal choice & responsibility:

- i) V.2 – Mental transformation = stop thinking like the world (v.14, 17, 19-21) – Is. 26:3; Phil. 2:5, 4:8; Col. 3:2; **Rom. 8:5-6.**
- ii) V.3 – Genuine humility (v.16) – 1 Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:3-4.
- iii) V.9 – Genuine love – Matt. 5:43-48; 1 Cor. 13:4-6; 1 John 3:16.

2) **Rom. 14:19** – Pursue the “*things*” which make for peace:

- a) **Silence** – Sometimes pursuing peace means remaining silent even if we know we’re right – Eccl. 3:7b; Prov. 10:19; 13:3; 17:27-28; 21:23; 26:4; 29:11; Ps. 39:1-4.
- b) **Humility** – Prov. 13:10; 16:18-19.
- c) **Wisdom** – Prov. 4:5, 7; 13:10; 14:29; 15:1, 23, 28; 16:16; 19:8; 25:11; 26:4-5

3) **Rom. 14:19** – Pursue the “*things*” which edify others.

- a) Love – 1 Cor. 8:1
- b) God’s word/sound speech – Eph. 4:29; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Prov. 18:21
- c) God’s gifts/spiritual gifts – Eph. 4:11-12
- d) Selflessness – Rom. 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 10:24, 33; Phil. 2:3-4; Gal. 6:1-2
- e) Heb. 12:14 – holiness (Gr.) = purification

- i) *Unless we pursue God’s standard of holiness/ purification, we will never obtain genuine peace.*
- ii) *Without God’s holiness, we won’t have a right relationship with God, resulting in not having a right relationship with people = we won’t have peaceful*

relationships: “...without which no one will see the Lord.” = everyone will see the flesh – James 1:20.