

Valley Bible Church Study on Stress

Keys To Peaceful Relationships

Key Verse: *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone Romans 12:18*

I. Conditions for Living at Peace

A. Understanding Where True Peace Comes From

1. God the Father is called the "God of Peace"

- May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9
- May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21
- For God is not a God of disorder but of peace. 1 Corinthians 14:33

2. God the Son is called the "Prince of Peace", and "the Lord of peace"

- For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6
- Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

3. God the Holy Spirit is a Spirit of Peace; Peace is a fruit of the Holy Spirit

- The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6
- For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17
- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23
- For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Ephesians 2:18

B. Understanding Where lack of Peace Comes From

- What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? James 4:1

C. Understanding that Peace with God is

1. Impossible for Non-Christians (the bad news)

a) Non-Christians are by nature Children of wrath

- As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of

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us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. Ephesians 2:1-3

- But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. Romans 2:5 - 10

b). Non-Christians are hostile toward God in their thinking

- The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Romans 8:6-7

c). Non-Christians are enemies of the Cross

- For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:10

- Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. Colossians 1:21

2. Available through Jesus Christ (the good news!)

- For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:19-20

- Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

- Romans 5:1

- But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Romans 5:8-11

- But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Ephesians 2:13-18

II. Called to Live in Peace

- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Matthew 5:9

- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Colossians 3:15

- God has called us to live in peace. 1 Corinthians 7:15b

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III. Commanded to Live in Peace

A. In the Church

- Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2 Corinthians 13:11

With regard to nonmoral issues (eating and drinking)

- Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19

With Respect to the Church and its leaders

- Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13

With those we fellowship with

- Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22
- Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension. 1 Timothy 2:7

B. In the World

- Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will. 2 Tim 2:23 - 26
- Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Heb 12:14

We are commanded to live a tranquil life

- First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 1 Timothy 2:1-2

We now have the ministry of reconciliation with the Gospel of Peace

- And with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Ephesians 6:15
- Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. Namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:19-20

Peace with the world is not always possible; peace in Christ is...

- These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the World you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. John 16:33

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- If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Romans 12:18

Godly examples of God's people not experiencing peace

1. Daniel
2. Joseph
3. David
4. Paul
5. Hebrews 11 Saints

Claim this!: "The world will hate us"

- John 15:18-25

IV. The Challenge

How can we share the gospel of peace when we aren't at peace with Non-Christians around us?

V. Keys to Living in Peace

A. Peace requires Devotion

1. To God

- Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:6 -9

2. To the Brethren

- Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10

B. Peace Requires Diligence

- Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

- Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14

- So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 2 Peter 3:14

C. Peace Requires Discipline

- No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.
Heb 12:10 - 11

D. Peace Requires Deference

- Honor one another above yourselves. Romans 12:10b

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- Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Romans 12:16

VI. Conclusion

- Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. 1 Peter 3:8-11
- A Prayerful Conclusion: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Are You at Peace with Others? A Self Evaluation

1. Over the past year, have you been at peace in all areas of your life?

- a. In your family? (spouse, children, parents, siblings, third cousins twice removed?)
- b. At work? (boss, coworkers, subordinates, back-stabbing ladder climbers)
- c. At Church (Growth Group, general congregation, church leaders, AWANA parents, the church softball team)
- d. Extracurricular Activities (Children's' sporting events, Coaches, Umpires / Ref's, other parents, piano instructors)

2. On a scale from 1 to 10 (10 being best), how would you rate yourself as a peacemaker?

3. If this survey was handed out to those identified above, how would others rate you as a peacemaker?

4. Extra Credit: Ask someone close to you to evaluate your effectiveness at being a peacemaker?