

Seek Peace and Pursue It!

122919PM

1 Peter 3:8-12

- Peace is nearly a universal desire but nearly always just out of reach.
- In times of strife and conflict, peace gains in its appeal.
- Rom. 14:19 “Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.”

A Recurrent OT Theme

- “Peace offering(s)” occur 84 times in the Old Testament.
- They were personal offerings thought to have been "safety-offerings," connected with happiness & security.
- A recurring theme of the Psalmists:
- From God – Psa. 29:11 If we allow Him to strengthen us!
- Psa. 34:14 “Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.”
- Characteristic of the blameless and upright – Psa. 37:37
“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.”
- Isa. 9:6-7 ...Prince of Peace... Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end...

A Recurrent NT Theme

- An accomplishment of the Savior:
 - Lk. 1:79 “To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Also Lk. 2:14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”
- Reconciliation (peace) between the sinner and God.
 - Rom. 5:1 “Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God”
 - Peter went to the house of Cornelius – Acts 10:36 “preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (He is Lord of all)”
- A possession the faithful – Mat. 5:9.
 - Rom. 8:6 – Of the spiritually minded.
 - 2 Pet. 3:14 – Of those who look for & work for it.

• Characteristic of faithful disciples of Christ.

- 1 Pet. 3:10-11 “Seek peace and pursue it.”
- Heb. 12:14 “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”
- Rom. 12:18 (NKJV) “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Things That Disturb the Peace

- Being “quick tempered” or “soon angry”
 - Jas. 3:5-6; Col. 3:8; Tit. 1:7; Pro. 15:1 “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”
- Selfishness: a characteristic of the immature.
 - Selfish people are never satisfied – Pro. 30:15a.
 - The toxic fruits of self-love in 2 Tim. 3:2-5.
- Let the Lord Jesus be our example!
 - 2 Cor. 5:15; Phi. 2:4-5ff.
- A desire for preeminence.
 - 3 Jn. 9 – Like Diotrophes.
 - The highest position in the church is “servant of all” – Mk. 9:35; 10:44; also Mat. 20:20-28.
 - The preeminence belongs solely to Christ – Col. 1:18.
- Self-justification.
 - Lk. 10:29 “But he, willing to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor?”
 - Why would it be difficult for those with this attitude to demonstrate forgiveness?
- Ignorance.
 - Peace cannot exist apart from a proper understanding of the Bible. Cf. 1 Cor. 1:10
 - Error flourishes in ignorance – Rom. 10:3.

Decision...

- Peace may be pursued by most but seems to be found by few.
- Those who surrender to God, submit to Him in obedience to Christ, and serve Him faithfully not only will find it, but they are guaranteed to do so! (Phil. 4:6-7)