

## Introduction:

There are a lot of “peace” passages in the Bible. There are 281 verses in the Old Testament and 88 verses in the New Testament. Jesus is referred to as the “Prince of Peace” **Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* He came to bring peace between man and God. **Romans 5:1** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.* We are called to be “peace makers” **Romans 12:18** *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* Yet we know people who seem to be at war with others, even inside the body of Christ. Even Christ did not get along with everyone. **John 12:10** *But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, **11** because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.*

### I) If It Is Possible - Hard to make peace with:

#### A) One who does not care what God says.

1. When two people agree to go by God’s word then peace should reign.
2. They have a common way of thinking and standard of right and wrong.
3. But some do not care.

**John 12:48** *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*

- a) It just doesn’t matter what the Bible says and you cannot force one into a peaceful relationship.
- b) Going the “extra mile” won’t do much good.
4. In such cases we are to do what the Bible says.

**Titus 3:10** *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,*

5. Obviously written concerning a brother in Christ who is divisive, causing division, due to their disrespect for God's word.
6. As Christians we are to be humble and obedient to the Word of God, to emulate Jesus.

**Philippians 2:3** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

**B) One who is self-willed (strong willed)**

**3 John 1:9** *I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. 10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.*

1. There is a difference in self-willed and having a strong personality. Between being stubborn and convicted.
2. I have known men on both sides of that coin. Glenn Williams and James Ferguson.
  - a. One brother in Christ generally said what he thought but was willing to listen.
  - b. Another seemed to always wanting to have his way. Get a preacher and after a while he would have a disagreement with the preacher over some matter.
3. A self-willed person has not feelings or love for others.

**1 Corinthians 12:24b** *But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

4. We need to be concerned about the other person.

**C) An arrogant person**

1. Connected with pride and not willing to admit mistakes.

***Proverbs 28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.***

2. It is hard to get along with one prideful person and impossible for two people full of pride to get along.

**II) So Far As Depends on You**

**A) Focus on yourself instead of the other person.**

***Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.***

1. Want to “make peace”, desire it, some folks just like stirring things up.
2. While others want to have peace.

***Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.***

**B) How do we really make peace with others?**

1. Must be dedicated to God first. Two people trying to serve God will find a whole lot of common ground.
  - a. Think of Abraham and Lot in Genesis.

***Genesis 13:7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.***

- b. Think of the Jews and Gentiles in Christ. A collection taken up by the Gentiles to help needy Jews.
2. Be humble –

***Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is***

***among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.***

- a. We are all fallible, in need of God's forgiveness, striving to serve the same God.
- b. Most people will work with you once they know you are humble.
3. Sincerely love others- care about their feelings, their needs, think of where they are coming from.
4. Go the extra mile without compromising the word of God.

***Matthew 5:23 "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 "Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison.***

5. Seek reconciliation, making things right. The Gospel of Christ is about reconciliation between man and God. Also, between man and man.

***Ephesians 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.***

### III) Be At Peace

#### A) This is a command.

1. Commands are not optional.

***Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this***

*many become defiled;*

2. How important is your soul to you? Important enough to pursue peace?

#### IV) With All Men

##### A) Are we prejudiced?

1. Do we judge some more harshly than others? Do we discount the feeling of some because of things like color or income or social standing?
2. We should have the same concern for every member of the body of Christ.
3. We should also care for each soul outside the body of Christ in need of salvation.

**Matthew 5:38** "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' **39** "But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. **40** "If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. **41** "And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. **42** "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away. **43** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' **44** "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **45** "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. **46** "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

##### B) Surely, we try with friends, family, other love ones.

#### Conclusion:

How about having peace with God? Only possible because God has made a way of peace for us. **Romans 5:1** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have*

***peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,***

As much as depends on you- what are my obligations toward God? What does He require of me? I need to recognize His will, His Son, His word. Humble yourself before God.