

"LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN"

ROMANS 12:17-21

TEXT: VERSE 18

INTRO: Without a doubt, the **GREATEST OF ALL HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS** is that which is experienced between **TRUE BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS** because as it says in Galatians 3:28 **"WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS."** That very biblical truth from the **POSITIONAL PERSPECTIVE** indicates that **TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST, UNITED TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SHOULD LIVE PEACEABLY IN PERFECT HARMONY. CONSIDER 1 CORINTHIANS 12:13.** And yet, from the **PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVE**, many Christians **DO NOT LIVE PEACEABLY AND IN PERFECT HARMONY** with each other, which in all reality is a **SIN OF COMMISSION. WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU LIVING IN DISHARMONY WITH SOME OTHERS PRESENTLY?** If so, **you are living in sin** and cannot expect the fulness of God's blessing in your life or ministry! **SUCH A SITUATION WILL BE A HINDRANCE TO THE WORKING OF THE LORD IN YOUR LIFE, YOUR FAMILY LIFE, AND YOUR CHURCH LIFE.** Today for a few minutes we are going to focus on a very short but powerful verse in the Bible, Romans 12:18, that clearly tells us that **AS TRUE BELIEVERS, WE ARE TO LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE UNSAVED.** What is more to be considered is that the word **"PEACEABLY"** in the text is the Greek word **"EIREN-EUO"** which means **"TO BRING PEACE, TO RECONCILE AND BE A PEACEMAKER."** So, the question this morning is: **AS A CHRISTIAN, ARE YOU A PEACE MAKER OR A PEACE BREAKER?" LET'S CONSIDER THE WORD OF GOD.**

NOTE: So often the work of God is hindered because Christians **DO NOT** live **PEACEABLY** with others. (Elwood Pfaunmiller and I are going to Kenya).

NOTE: Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:3.

I. THE POSSIBLE CONCEPT OF LIVING PEACEABLY WITH OTHERS

"IF IT BE POSSIBLE"

NOTE: The Greek word for **"POSSIBLE"** is **"DUNATOS"** which means **"MAINTAINING THE STRONG, MIGHTY, POWERFUL ABILITY IN THE MOST AUTHENTIC WAY"** to live at peace with others. **A PERSONAL DECISION!**

A. From the "OTHERS" Perspective

-It may be true that at times it is **NOT** possible to **LIVE PEACEABLY** with others because **THEY ARE NOT WILLING** to do so. **WE ARE NOT HELD RESPONSIBLE BEFORE GOD FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT LIVE PEACEABLY WITH US.**

B. From the "PERSONAL" Perspective

-Before God **EVERY CHRISTIAN**, is to live **PEACEABLY** with others in **ACTIONS, ATTITUDES AND ACTIVITIES, WITHOUT EXCEPTION.**

-2 Timothy 2:24-26

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE PERSONAL CONCEPT OF LIVING PEACEABLY WITH OTHERS

"AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU"

A. The Personal Effort (From our own perspective)

-Anything we can do from the biblical perspective and on the personal level to live peaceably with others, we are to do. Note Vss. 19-21.

B. The Spiritual Effort (From God's perspective)

NOTE: **Any and all biblical admonitions to live peaceably with others are possible by the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer.**

1. Be Spiritual – Galatians 5:16
2. Be Prayerful – James 5:16
3. Be Teachable – Romans 14:19

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE PRACTICAL CONCEPT OF LIVING PEACEABLY WITH OTHERS

"LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN"

NOTE: "PEACEABLY" means to be a "PEACEMAKER."

-The Points: a) In the event of the observation of division among others, we are not just to let it run its course, but to be active in resolving the conflict.

b) In the event of division between ourselves and others, we are not just to avoid it but take the lead in resolving the matter so as not to build bitterness. Note Ephesians 4:26,27

A. The Negative Approach – Ephesians 4:31 (6 things to avoid)

B. The Positive Approach – Ephesians 4:32 (3 things to apply)

"ALL FOR CHRIST'S SAKE"

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSONS AND APPLICATION

The Biblical Foundation to Consider: Romans 12:1-3, 10,16,17.

The Biblical Action to Consider: Matthew 5:9; Ephesians 4:3

DIVISION AND THE LACK OF UNITY AMONG TRUE CHRISTIANS IS A VICE THAT WILL POISON THE BODY OF CHRIST, IN THE HOME, THE CHURCH AND THE MINISTRY, THAT WILL DESTROY UNITY, DISRUPT THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND DEPLOY SATAN'S WORK ON EVERY LEVEL. WE ALL MUST DO ALL WE CAN TO AVOID AND RESOLVE ALL DISUNITY BETWEEN US AND OTHER CHRISTIANS SO AS TO GO FORWARD IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

MAKE IT PERSONAL

IF YOU HAVE AN ATTITUDE, AN ACTION, OR AN ACTIVITY OF DIVISION BETWEEN YOURSELF AND ANOTHER BELIEVER, DO NOT TOLERATE IT! CONFESS IT AS A SIN, RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND GO FORWARD IN A PEACEABLE RELATIONSHIP.... OR ELSE SATAN WILL DISRUPT YOUR PERSONAL LIFE THROUGH BITTERNESS AND SPIRITUAL INEFFECTIVENESS.