

## THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE

Text: Romans 14:19

INTRO: Our text is found in a chapter in which Paul has sought to promote a sense of tranquility in areas of personal judgment—things like the eating of meats, observing of days, & other matters in which godly men and women may hold views that vary from one another, & yet be able to work & worship together in God's service.

In every relationship, peace is to be desired. "Peace" may be defined in the positive sense as "harmony or concord." In the negative sense, peace is the absence of strife and/or hostility.

Peace is always desirable, but it must not take precedence over principle. If something is sinful, I must not encourage it for the sake of peace. If something is optional, I must not pursue it to the extent of causing strife and hostility.

### I. PEACE WITH OUR FELLOW MAN IS DESIRABLE.

Rom 12:18, If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Heb 12:14, Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Exception: Luke 12:51-53, Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on 5 in one house will be divided: 3 against 2, and 2 against 3. Father will be divided against son & son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

2 Cor 6:14-17, Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them & be separate, says

the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

## II. PEACE WITHG OUR BRETHREN IS VERY IMPORTANT.

John 17:20-22, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, & I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

1 Cor 1:10, Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

2 Cor 13:11, Finally, brethren, farewell. Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Exception: 2 Thess 3:6-7, But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

## III. PEACE WITH GOD IS ESSENTIAL & OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE.

Rom 5:1, Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Phil 4:5-7, Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

## IV. THINGS WHICH MAKE FOR PEACE.

A. Love. Rom 13:9-10, For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness,"

"You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

B. Respect for authority.

1 John 5:1-3, Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

C. When problems arise, or potential problems loom, always be devoted to finding a solution that is in harmony with God's revealed truth.

John 17:15-21, They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

CONCLUSION: Gal 5:19-26, Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the

Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited,  
provoking one another, envying one another.

Cox Springs, Jonestown, TX, September 4, 1966

Jonestown, TX, July 19, 1970

La Porte, TX, June 13, 1982

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 8, 2002