

Making Peace

Romans 12:14-21

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

Make peace by refusing to meet evil on its own terms.

(Verse 14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Make peace by seeking to understand your enemy.

(Verse 15) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Make peace by meeting your enemy on level ground.

(Verse 16) Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Make peace by seeking the wisdom of others.

(Verse 17b) Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

(Judges 21:25) In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.

- A. Listen to others
- B. Listen to the Bible
- C. Listen to God

Make peace by claiming your share of the responsibility for a peaceful relationship.

(Verse 18) If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

- A. A peacemaker must take responsibility for making peace.
- B. But you cannot take all of the responsibility for making and keeping peace.

Make peace by leaving judgment to God.

(Verse 19) Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Make peace by breaking the cycle of vengeance.

(Verse 20) On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Make peace by being a friend, not a more effective enemy.

(Verse 21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.