

to BE... or NOT... - Part 7

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

Matthew 5:9 (NIV)

There were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."
Luke 13:1-3 (ESV)

"Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Matthew 22:21b (ESV)

But he said to them, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."
Luke 12:14-15 (ESV)

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

Romans 12:18 (NIV)

"You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family."
Matthew 5:9 (MSG)

But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side."
Luke 19:41-43 (NLT)

Our reconciling "Peace" is Jesus! He has made Jew and non-Jew one in Christ. By dying as our sacrifice, he has broken down every wall of prejudice that separated us and has now made us equal through our union with Christ. Ethnic hatred has been dissolved by the crucifixion of his precious body on the cross. The legal code that stood condemning every one of us has now been repealed by his command. His triune essence has made peace between us by starting over—forming one new race of humanity, Jews and non-Jews fused together! Two have now become one, and we live restored to God and reconciled in the body of Christ. Through his crucifixion, hatred died. For

the Messiah has come to preach this sweet message of peace to you, the ones who were distant, and to those who are near. And now, because we are united to Christ, we both have equal and direct access in the realm of the Holy Spirit to come before the Father!"
Ephesians 2:14-18 (TPT)

Dear brother Christians, I love you and long to see you, for you are my joy and my reward for my work. My beloved friends, stay true to the Lord. **And now I want to plead with those two dear women, Euodias and Syntyche. Please, please, with the Lord's help, quarrel no more—be friends again. And I ask you, my true teammate, to help these women,** for they worked side by side with me in telling the Good News to others; and they worked with Clement, too, and the rest of my fellow workers whose names are written in the Book of Life. Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! **Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:1-7 (TLB)**

Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong. **Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.** Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. **Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.**
Hebrews 12:13-15 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: **Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.**
2 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT)