

Are You About Peace?

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” – Romans 12:17-18 (NIV)

In our daily lives, we face countless moments where we can either choose peace or escalate conflict. Perhaps someone speaks harshly to us, cuts us off in traffic, or even betrays our trust. Our natural inclination might be to retaliate, to defend ourselves, or to hold onto a grudge. But as followers of Christ, we are called to something far greater peace.

Romans 12:17-18 challenges us to live out this peace, even in the face of wrongdoing. It doesn't promise that life will be free from conflict, disagreements, or even anger. These emotions are a natural part of human life. However, we are reminded that our response to these moments matters.

Being “about peace” means making the choice to respond with love, forgiveness, and self-control rather than reacting impulsively with vengeance or bitterness. It's about seeking reconciliation whenever possible and showing the character of Christ in every interaction.

This doesn't mean we avoid addressing issues or compromise on truth. Living at peace does not equal living in silence or passivity. Instead, it means we confront challenges with grace, address wrongs with wisdom, and refuse to let the actions of others dictate our character.

Paul's words, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,” remind us that peace often requires effort on our part. It may mean swallowing our pride, extending forgiveness, or even being the first to apologize. While we cannot control others' responses or actions, we can control our own hearts and behaviors.

So, are you about peace? Do you seek to bring reconciliation and understanding in your relationships? Do you shine the light of Christ by choosing to repay evil with kindness and love?

Today, let's commit to being peacemakers. When conflict arises, may our first response be prayer, asking God for the wisdom and strength to glorify Him through our actions. May we embrace the opportunities to demonstrate His love, and in doing so, reflect the heart of Christ to a world in desperate need of peace.

Prayer:

Lord, You are the Prince of Peace, and we long to reflect Your heart in every area of our lives. Help us to respond to conflict with love and grace. Teach us to forgive as You have forgiven us, and give us the courage to seek reconciliation even when it's hard. May our lives be a testimony of Your peace, bringing glory to Your name. Amen.