

**"LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN"**  
**ROMANS 12:18**

**INTRO:** One of the most difficult trials Christians face is that of LIVING AT PEACE WITH OTHERS! Whether it is in the home, in the church, on the job, at the school or in society LIVING AT PEACE WITH OTHERS CAN BE A REAL TASK AT TIMES! And yet the Bible says in Romans 12:18, **"IF IT BE POSSIBLE, AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU, LIVE PEACEABLE WITH ALL MEN."** No doubt the first question that comes to our mind when we read that verse is "HOW IN THE WORLD CAN THAT BE DONE?" Then that question may be followed up with, "DOES GOD REALLY EXPECT THAT OF ME?" Certainly those are honest questions particularly when we take into consideration that IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS FROM TIME TO TIME. So, let's examine the scriptures to see what God expects of us when it comes to LIVING PEACEABLY WITH ALL PEOPLE.

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NOTE: The command to "LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN" comes in the middle of the context of BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE MAINTAINED BY THOSE WHO HAVE CONSECRATED THEIR LIVES TO THE LORD. For Instance:

- 1) The Command to Consecrate One's Life to the Lord - Vss. 1,2
- 2) The Call to Conduct One's Spiritual Gifts - Vss. 3-8
- 3) The Challenge to Carry Out One's Biblical Duties - Vss. 9-21

**ONE OF THE BIBLICAL DUTIES GOD PLACES UPON US IS TO LIVE PEACEABLE WITH ALL MEN TO THE DEGREE THAT WE CAN! IT IS AN EXPECTATION OF GOD.**

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**I. THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING PEACEABLY WITH ALL PEOPLE**

**"IF IT BE POSSIBLE"**

**A. The Command**

1. The Command Is Consistent with Other Biblical Texts.

- a. Romans 14:19
- b. 1 Corinthians 14:30
- c. 2 Corinthians 13:11
- d. Ephesians 4:3
- e. 1 Thessalonians 4:13
- f. 2 Timothy 2:22

2. The Command Is Personally Unconditional

-Every Christian is to endeavor to live at peace with others.

3. The Command Is Interpersonally Conditional

-Not everyone wants to live at peace with us.

- a. Arrogant Unbelievers.
- b. Spiritually Immature Believers

**B. The Concern**

1. For the Christian there is to be **NO BREACH OF PEACE** with others. This is qualified by the fact that Christians are to bear witness to the truth and live by biblical principles all of the time.

2. To live "PEACEABLY" with others means that **WE ARE NOT TO DISTURB OTHERS OR BE DISTURBED BY OTHERS,**

3. This command is NOT meant for an IDEAL ENVIRONMENT, but for this SINFUL WORLD inhabited by people like us!

4. This command should cause us to do some SELF-EXAMINATION before we blame others too quickly for the difficulties in which we find ourselves.

5. Simply speaking Paul is urging us to do ALL THAT IS IN OUR POWER TO BRING ABOUT AND PRESERVE PEACE RECOGNIZING THAT IT MAY **NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF OTHERS' ATTITUDE TOWARD US.**

**WARNING: WE ARE NOT TO COMPROMISE BIBLICAL TRUTH TO BE AT PEACE WITH OTHERS!**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

## **II. THE POTENTIAL OF LIVING PEACEABLY WITH ALL PEOPLE**

### **"AS MUCH AS LIETH IN YOU"**

NOTE: This phrase is BASED UPON the REALITY OF THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT in the lives of EVERY BELIEVER!

THE POINT: **BY THE AID OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EACH CHRISTIAN IS TO APPLY EVERY BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE TO MAINTAIN PEACE.**

- A. We are to Pray for Others
- B. We are to be Kind toward Others
- C. We are to Submit to Others
- D. We are to Encourage Others
- E. We are to Edify Others
- F. We are to attempt to Understand Others
- G. We are to use Godly Wisdom in relation to Others
- J. We are to Trust God in dealing with Others

ILLUSTRATION: "You are not guiltless until you have exhausted every means to bring about peace." -James Stiffler (Commentary on Romans)

## **III. THE PROSPECT OF LIVING PEACEABLE WITH ALL PEOPLE**

### **" LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL MEN"**

- A. Recognize the Significance of Peace in God's Eyes
- B. Recognize that Satan will do all to Disrupt Peace
- C. Recognize that Every Christian is to be a Peace Maker
- D. Recognize the Result of Peace between Believers
- E. Recognize that Peace is the Result of the working of the Holy Spirit

ILLUSTRATION: "The cause of conflict must not arise from you. Your duty is to preserve peace." -Charles Hodge (Commentary on Romans)