

Are You a Peacemaker?

Introduction: God calls us to be peacemakers in our lives.

I. Government's Responsibility to Maintain Peace in Society

- A. Government has authority from God to punish. (Rom. 13:1-7)
- B. "They do not bear the sword in vain."
- C. Jesus spoke out against personal vengeance. (Mt. 5:38 ff.)

II. Christians Have the Personal Responsibility to Seek Peace with Others

- A. "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." (Rom. 12:18)
- B. God instructs us in how to live "quiet and peaceable lives"—by praying for all who are in positions of authority. (1 Tim. 2:1-4)

III. Seeking Peace with Our Fellow Man on a Personal Level

- A. Why do we have conflict with others?
 - 1. Personal, selfish desires. (James 4:1-4)
 - 2. Anger and resentment.
 - 3. Personal opinions enforced as absolute truth.
 - 4. Some people are looking for a fight. (2 Cor. 10:8)
- B. God's resounding message to the churches was one of unity and peace. (Rom. 14:19; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:11; 2 Tim. 2:22)
- C. Don't let it be because of you that peace fails to exist between you and someone else. (Rom. 12:18-21)
- D. Being peace-seekers is accomplished by evaluating and removing my contribution to the conflict. (Mt. 5:21-26; Gen. 13:6-11)
- E. Our responsibility to deal with truth is to do so with others in a spirit of meekness, gentleness, longsuffering, etc. (2 Tim. 2:24,25)

Conclusion: Seeking peace with our fellow man is a determining factor of our relationship with God. (Cf. Mt. 5:9)