

Pursuing



1 Pet 3:11 Seek Peace and Pursue it.

Last Week We Talked about *Unity*



Blessings Ps 133:1

Prayer John 17:21^f

Authority Col 3:17

Application Jude 12

“Love Feasts”

Bible Fellowship: was always Spiritual (1 Cor 1:9)

Attitude: Bearing with, Forgiving (Col 3:13)

Glue: Love is the Perfect Bond of Unity (Col 3:14)



of Pursuing Peace

Nuts & Bolts: The practical facts about a thing, rather than theories or ideas about it.

Peace: Freedom from conflict and turmoil; both inner and outer. Tranquility.

John 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, *that in Me you may have peace*. In the world *you have tribulation..”*

Some People Always Live in Turmoil

**(Gen 16:12) “ His hand will be against everyone
and everyone's hand against him, and he will
live in hostility toward all his brothers...”**

Pursue Peace with Yourself

“He who lives in harmony with himself, lives in harmony with the world. — Marcus Aurelius

- 1. Let go of Perfectionism*** (Eccl 7:20)
- 2. Make amends*** (Mat 5:23-24)
- 3. Practice contentment*** (Phil 4:11)
- 4. Accept “What is”*** (Ecc 1:15)
- 5. Smile, be happy*** (Prov 15:15)
- 6. Nurture hope*** (Rom 8:28)
- 7. Live in the present*** (1 Cor 15:9 -10)
- 8. Accept God’s forgiveness*** (Ps 103:12-14)

Pursue Peace with Others

1. Love like Jesus does (John 13:34)

Eph 5:2 “Walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God.”

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness and ...anger be put away from you.. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Pursue Peace with Others

2. See *Others as More Important* (Phil 2:3)

Rom 12:10^b

“Give preference to one another in honor.”

Humility isn't thinking less of yourself.. But thinking of yourself less .”

CS.
Lewis

Rom 12:3 Think so as to have *sound judgment*

3. Consider that You Might be Wrong !

(Prov 21:2) “**Every man's** way is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.”

(Jas 1:19) “Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, **slow to anger**”

What if the evidence is **mixed** and you're unsure? (Prov 4:18) What if it takes 10 years? (Acts 18:26 Apollos)

4. Weigh the Evidence *Honestly* !

(1 Thes 5:21) “*Examine* all things carefully”

(Acts 17:11) “They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily *to see* whether these things were so.”

Does Amos 6:4 *Forbid* instruments of music?

Does Acts 2:38 Mention **Water** baptism for sin?

Does Acts 17:26 say We humans must live on earth?

5. *Don't Answer Before Hearing the Other Side !*



(Prov 18:13) “Answering before listening is both *stupid and rude.*”

The Message

(Prov 18:17) “The *first to plead his cause* seems just, until another comes and examines him.”

(John 7:51) Our law does not judge a man unless it *first hears from him* & knows what he is doing, does it?

6. Give Others *Time* to Study and Learn !

(Ecc 3:6-7) “A time to search and
a time to give up..”

(Acts 10:34) Peter: “Now I most certainly
understand..” (ca 10 years later).

How long did it take YOU to figure out the
truth on... All aspects of the Holy Spirit?

7. Don't Misrepresent the Other Side

(Mark 14:58) We heard Him say, "I will destroy this temple made with hands, and *in three days* I will build another made without hands."

(Acts 21:28-29) This man preaches to all men everywhere *against our people and the Law and this place*; & besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and *has defiled this holy place*.

**Do siblings ever misrepresent each other?
Spouses? Children of parents? Crooks of Cops**

8. *Don't Assign Wrong Motives*

(1 Cor 2:11-13) Who among men know the thoughts of a man *except the spirit of a man* that is within him?

(1 Sam 16:7) Man looks at the outward appearance, but the *LORD looks at the heart.*

(John 7:24) Do *not judge according to appearance*, but judge with righteous judgment.

9. Don't Hasten to Label

(John 8:48) Do we not rightly say that you are a Samaritan & have a demon?

(Acts 24:5)

This man is... a real pest and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

(Lk 7:33-34)

John the Baptist came not eating nor drinking and you say he has a demon.

Labels demonize & justify isolation: They're so self-righteous. They're liberal. They're pharisaical, etc.

Pursuing **P**ea**c**e

IF "Plan A"
Didn't Work.
The alphabet has
25 more letters!
Stay Cool.