



THE PEACE PROMISE

#8: THE PEACEMAKERS

October 28, 2018

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"We live in a world that sees relationships as disposable, so we often bolt at the first sign of conflict. But some things we just have to deal with for the sake of relationships among God's people."

"The goal of the Christian life, the Christian witness, is not simply personal happiness, but living the reality of a holy, loving union with God and others."

–Pastor
Randy Remington

"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." " (Philippians 4:1-7)

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

"Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!" (Genesis 45:24)

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." (Ephesians 4:2-3)

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God... Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:9, 23-24)

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1)

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone... Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification." (Romans 12:18, 14:19)

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:19-20)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Paul is inviting his sisters and brothers in Christ, whom he loves, to stand firm in the unity of Christ Jesus. Paul has a deep affection and appreciation for the Philippians. Because of this, he encourages them to stand firm in the Lord as they live in a world that is oppositional to the gospel.

With Euodia and Syntyche at odds with each other, Paul is calling them to live with their minds as one in Jesus. In life, there will always be differences along the way, and what Paul is appealing to is the big picture of God's kingdom. Keeping Jesus the focus of our relationships brings peace and settles anxiousness. Paul also calls the church to help these two women to live at peace. What he is emphasizing is rightness in relationships.

A community that is purposely formed with intention takes time. Healthy relationships are forged over time and keeping Jesus central is what's most important. Our lives and the

health of our relationships are a reflection of God's love and peace. With Jesus as our goal, we can move toward healthy and full reconciliation.

Living as a community of peace in the world doesn't mean there is an absence of conflict. In our relational conflict, it's accessing God's peace and unity. The world will look in at us and discern the authenticity of our lives by the way we love one another and pursue relational peace. Will the world's response be, "Look at how they solve a conflict, forgiving one another and resolving differences together"? The presence of conflict is a reality along the way. What Paul is encouraging is the presence of a reconciling spirit through the conflict. Out of our union as God's people, we bring his love and shalom to the world. The world will know we are His disciples by the way we love one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Think of a time when someone important to you took the initiative to pursue peace in your relationship? How did that impact you?
2. What stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
3. What was your high/low from the past week (or since the group last met)?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How does Paul deal with the conflict between Euodia and Syntyche?
2. How is Paul encouraging the Philippians to participate in helping these two women?
3. What does Paul say about peace and relational conflict?
4. What is the result of God's peace in our lives and relationships?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. How can we pursue peace in our relationships?
2. How does pursuing peace impact the world's view of the church?
3. When the world looks inside the "church", how will they see the gospel of peace? Describe what that looks like.

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What keeps you from pursuing peace with someone you're in conflict with?
2. What, if any is your part in that? Is there anything you need to repent of?
3. How do you prepare your heart ahead of time to seek peace with another. Do you know someone trustworthy who can help you?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Where is there conflict in your life? How specifically can you bring peace to this relationship?