



Living Well

Peace Making



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Check out these websites for more information:

For more detailed information about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.org
Photos and writings about the ministry - www.livingwelloc.blogspot.com
Encouragement/culture on marriage - www.livingwellinmarriage.blogspot.com
Wisdom Community School - www.wisdomcommunityschool.com

Peace Living It and Making It

The last few weeks were filled with conflict between religions, ideologies, and races. We have all experienced these kind of tensions before. God has warned us that we will never have peace here.

Regardless of that warning, **He calls us to live at peace with others and even to make peace!**

There is a difference between “keeping the peace” and “living at peace” with others. The back page has more about this idea, especially as it relates to marriage.

The Bible calls me to live at peace with others “if it is possible.” In other words, **God is telling me to do my part to live at peace.** Some people are not willing to live at peace with us. They continue to cause conflict, for a multitude of reasons.

Usually, they are hurt, so they want to cause hurt to others.

For my part, I don’t have to take the bait and get involved in attacking back.

To live in peace, I must take a look at my own life and see if there is something there that God wants to change.

To live at peace means that I am not holding anything against anyone. It means that I forgive the hurt. I don’t pursue revenge or “pay backs” or trying to make them hurt like they hurt me.

Only after I have looked at my own life, do I seek to address the situation with someone else. In all that I do, I seek to glorify God with my words and my actions.

God calls us to go beyond “living at peace” to “making

peace.” Making peace would certainly include making peace with others personally.

“Peacemaker” brings different images to mind. Some may think of the peace symbol from the 60’s or the two-fingers-raised-in-a-V sign or an olive branch or a dove or even a gun.



Making peace looks for ways to make peace with the people I encounter every day and to even facilitate peace between people.

The goal of peace making is reconciliation. The person may need to make peace with God or peace with himself or peace with others. God calls us to a ministry of reconciliation - peace making. **When people reconcile on a personal level,** it is much easier to reconcile between races, religions, and even nations.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

The followers of Jesus have been called to peace. When He called them they found their peace, for He is their peace. But now they are told that they must not only have peace but make it.
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12:18

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9

We can be peacemakers because Christ made peace with us through His death.

...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 1:20

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Romans 14:19

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full

of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

James 3:17-18

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3

Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

2 Corinthians 13:11

On the reverse side:

Keeping peace vs. making peace

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Keeping peace vs. making peace

*I just want
to keep peace!*

*Have you ever thought
that or heard that?*

God calls us to live at peace and to make peace, but **the emphasis is not on keeping the peace only.**

In conflict zones around the world, a military presence is sometimes sent in as "peacekeepers." They are not working for reconciliation, just maintaining peace.

In relationships, **if I am trying to keep the peace,**

I do whatever I can to avoid conflict.

Keeping the peace, may mean that I don't voice my opinion or desires. Or I don't disagree with the other person, no matter what. If I make a statement or make a decision and the other person disagrees with me, I ignore it or walk away.

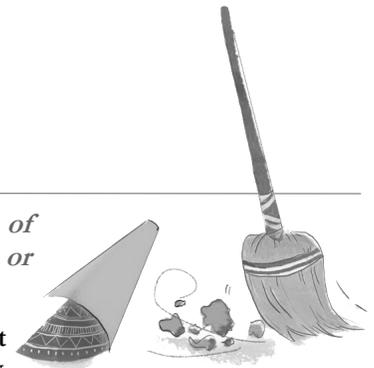
When I have that mindset, it doesn't mean that my opinions or desires have changed, it means that I stuff it all down inside or I avoid talking about it, **"sweep it under the rug."**

What are the results of ignoring the issues or avoiding them?

The problem or conflict isn't resolved by avoiding it. Actually, it usually grows and gets worse. Eventually, the peacekeeper may explode or dissolve the relationship.

In marriage, dissolving the relationship shouldn't be a choice. Also, avoiding the issues instead of resolving them can't be an option.

A healthy relationship means that I am able to



voice my opinions or ideas without fear of attack or being demeaned.

Resolving the conflicts and learning to talk and listen to each other in a way that glorifies God is possible! Many couples need godly, wise counsel to spend time with them and give them guidance.

There is hope!

PAUSE Principle

The concepts in this section are from Peacemaker Ministries.*

As a general rule, you should try to negotiate substantive issues in a cooperative manner rather than a competitive manner. In other words, instead of aggressively pursuing your own interests and letting others look out for themselves, you should deliberately look for **solutions** that are **beneficial** to everyone involved.

As the Apostle Paul put it, *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than*

yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

A biblical approach to negotiation may be summarized in five basic steps, which we refer to as the **PAUSE Principle**:

- **Prepare** (pray, get the facts, seek godly counsel, develop options)
- **Affirm relationships** (show genuine concern and respect for others)
- **Understand interests** (identify others' concerns, desires, needs, limitations, or fears)

- **Search for creative solutions** (prayerful brainstorming)

- **Evaluate options objectively and reasonably** (evaluate, don't argue)

If you have never used this approach to negotiation before, it **will take time and practice** (and sometimes advice from others) to become proficient at it. But it is well worth the effort, because learning the PAUSE principle will help you not only to resolve your present dispute but also to negotiate more effectively in all areas of your life.

*www.peacemaker.net