

September 28, 2025

A PEACEFUL WITNESS

Often as a grandfather, when playing with my grandchildren, I find myself reminding them to “play nice.” Whether it is a spat over a specific toy or who gets to ride on my shoulders next, conflict so often finds its way into our relationships—not only those relationships that we value most, but with all relationships. As Christians, we have a responsibility to our God, ourselves, our families, our congregation, our community, and to the greater society at large. That responsibility is to set the example as to what it means to be Christian. And this most certainly is reflected in how we relate to those around us.

The apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 12:18 that “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” As we all know and experience, this is a tall order to faithfully live out, especially in a world that is turning daily farther and farther away from the things of God. How do you live peaceably with those who persecute you, tease you, mock you, and ostracize you? You do it by looking beyond the actions and behaviors of others, learning to see those who oppose you for who they truly are—precious eternal souls.

As Christians striving to live peaceably with all, we anchor the calling to be peacemakers deep into our hearts. For as Jesus proclaims in Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” It is by our witness in which we are the salt and light of the world. Thus, as we live out our lives in a manner that shines the light of Christ into all aspects of our lives, it is important to always remember that “If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

I pray that as Christians filled with the joy of the Gospel, as we peacefully engage with the world around us, that those who are lost in the chaos and uncertainty of this fallen world would come to find true peace—the peace that is beyond all understanding.

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