



INVESTIGATE

Clearly we must leave no stone unturned in our efforts to pursue peace when we are in conflict with other believers. What are some of the practical steps we should be take?

- 1 Corinthians 12: 12
- Romans 12: 5
- Matt. 5:23-24

And when dealing with un-peaceful non-believers, what must we avoid (Rom 12:17-21)?



THINK IT THROUGH

“Peace outside starts with peace within.

From knowing you are forgiven – you do not have to battle to earn God’s favour.

From knowing you are precious – you do not have to fight to earn God’s care.

From knowing you are chosen – you do not have to struggle to build yourself a future.

God forgives, God values, God chooses.

These are gifts of grace, which puts us at peace” (Richard England)



TAKE ACTION

Do you need to think or behave differently towards anyone at Church, at work, or at home? If so, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you and produce the fruit of His peace.



PRAY IT THROUGH

- Praise God that He took the initiative to bring peace to rebellious people.
- Pray for “the peace of God which transcends all understanding” that it “will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:7)
- Ask the Holy Spirit to use you to bring peace to wherever it is needed in 2014.

9 A DAY BECOMING LIKE JESUS

SMALL GROUPS SHEET
WEEK BEGINNING 9 FEBRUARY 2014

4. PEACE

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



FOR STARTERS

Peace is a state of harmony, serenity, an absence of war, conflict and disagreement, in which people are at one with each other. It's something we long for in our lives, the lives of our families, at work and amongst the nations. Yet according to the New York Times, peace has only existed for 8% of recorded history. Will there ever be "peace on earth, goodwill to all men"? Is it something we can all long for, but never attain?



BACKGROUND

Diplomats travel the world to broker deals and seek peace between warring factions. Counsellors work to bring peace to those in broken relationships. But true and lasting peace is only found in Jesus. Peace is a hallmark of a person indwelt by the Spirit of Jesus. He is the start point for an internal peace and a peace with other people.



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PEACE WITH GOD

Read Romans 5:1-5

The foundation for all true peace is peace with God.

- Why do we need "peace with God" (v1, v9)?
- How does this peace come about?

Jesus tells us that peace is the right of the Christian believer (John 14:27), and Paul repeats that fact here. But where do our good works stand us (v1, 2a)?

In v3 he speaks of rejoicing in suffering. So what is the foundation that underlies the Christian's real peace? Read also Colossians 1:20.



THINK IT THROUGH

"Peace with God is more than just a change in our feelings; it is about a change in God's relation to us" (Geoffrey B. Wilson). Discuss this statement.



INVESTIGATE

PEACE WITH OURSELVES

In the run-up to Gethsemane, Jesus is teaching his disciples about how the future will unfold. **Read John 16:29-33**

What are the circumstances he is describing (16: 17, 20,22,31) and what impact will these circumstances have on their inner peace?

Despite all this, Jesus offers the prospect of peace. How can this be (v33, cf. Jn 14:27)?



THINK IT THROUGH

"Peace is not real peace until it has been tested in the storm" (Eric Hayman). Does this ring true in your experience?

In all the difficulties that life brings, do we sometimes seek deliverance from them rather than have an attitude of peace to face them? How often do we "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5: 7)?



INVESTIGATE

PEACE WITH OTHERS.

Read Romans 12:17-21, 14:19; Hebrews 12:14.

How does the emphasis on action differ from the first two sections of this study?